

NOAH

by
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PROTOZOA PICTURES

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS NOTHING.

JUST DARKNESS.

From black emerges THE APPLE: in perfect form, velvet skin, bursting with juice, it hangs precariously from a straining twig in

EDEN

Invisible rings of pulsing energy emerge from the fruit, tickling our eyes.

A woman's hand reaches up and plucks the forbidden apple.

The twig recoils.

Behind us, out of sight, we hear CRUNCH.

FADE TO BLACK.

Return on a man's hand. A fist grips a rock. His fingertips pale from lack of blood.

The man descends on a second man. His brother. The rock rises up.

CAIN strikes ABEL down.

The rock drops into the spreading puddle of blood.

Cain walks away into

BLACKNESS

Now there is nothing again.

JUST DARKNESS.

We hear a woman CRY. A man CRIES too. Children CRY.

Men SHOUT. Women SCREAM. Children HOWL.

Men FIGHT. Women KILL. Children DIE.

Horse hooves POUND. Swords CLASH. Animals SQUEAL.

Warfare EVERYWHERE. Armies SMASH into each other.

The earth BURNS. Dissonance becomes deafening WHITE NOISE. Piercing agony.

Suddenly, smash back to:

SILENCE

Beat.

And these words emerge:

Genesis 6:5

The Creator saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and it grieved His heart. So the Creator said, "I am sorry that I have made them. I will blot out man whom I created from the face of the ground."

FADE IN:

ON NOAH

At 35, the world already weighs heavy on his shoulders. Deep lines mark his brow.

On hands and knees he scrapes lichen and herbs from a pock-marked rock. He collects them in a satchel on his hip. He searches for more plants on a

BARREN HILLSIDE

The earth is scorched and gray. All is dead except for the few scraggly plants that fight to stand up straight.

The dust filled air diffuses the low-hanging red sun.

Then, near Noah, a single drop of rain slams into the ground. Noah looks up at the dull sky. Not a cloud in sight.

He watches the dry earth suck up the moisture. Soon only the tiny crater where the drop hit is left.

A strange WIND whistles low across the ground. An unintelligible WHISPER rides the air.

Noah looks around, confused.

His eldest son, SHEM, collects herbs up on top of a nearby ridge. The clear-eyed 7 year-old seems not to have heard anything.

Noah's 5-year old middle son, HAM, plays with a flowering weed. He too seems to have heard nothing.

No one else is around.

NOAH

Shem?

SHEM

What father?

NOAH

Do you feel rain?

Shem looks up into the sky. He sees nothing.

SHEM

No father.

Noah shrugs. They both return to work.

Meanwhile, Ham plucks a white weed flower. He adds it to a collection in his palm. He looks up mischievously.

As Noah works, Ham sneaks up and drops a flower into the satchel. Noah doesn't notice.

Ham drops another blossom in. Noah sees the weed flower and tosses it out. He returns to work.

Ham drops another flower in. Noah catches him.

NOAH

(sternly)

Ham!

The boy freezes. His father's word law. He drops the flowers and tears up.

Noah's heart melts. He descends on his son, loaded with tickles. The boy's tears turn into breathless giggles.

Noah smiles. He points to another patch of flowers.

NOAH

Pretty. Pick more for mother.

Ham waddles off. Noah watches him. His smile fading too quickly.

Then, a second drop of rain hits near his feet. He looks down. A thunderous rain instantly muddies the ground.

He looks up. The rain is gone. The dull sky clear. The ground is perfectly dry as if nothing happened. For a moment, strangely, the craters in the dust remain. And then they are blown away.

It is the WIND again, stronger now, the WHISPER louder.

Noah spins, afraid. Nothing to see. He looks up at Shem. His son noticed nothing. The boy stares off into a neighboring valley.

Suspicious, Noah scans the horizon through squinted eyes.

SHEM (O.S.)

Father!

Noah rushes to his frantically waving son.

Shem points down from

THE RIDGE

into the valley. Before he sees it, Noah can hear it.

A TRIBE OF HUNTERS corners a large group of giant SINGLE-HORNED BISON.

Thirty humans brutally hack the animals apart, fighting to slice off the horns.

NOAH

No.

(Furious)

NO!

(To Shem)

Mind your brother.

Shem takes hold of Ham. In the

VALLEY

The poachers pay Noah no mind as he runs into the massacre pulling tightly-bound packets from his satchel.

He tosses them at the poachers. On impact the packets explode. Thick smoke fills the air.

The enemy is confused. The smoke makes their bodies break out in hives. They panic. Most flee.

A few pull weapons and attack Noah. A master of military arts, Noah quickly disarms the enemy. He twists arms, cracks wrists, snaps joints and carves through a half dozen men without breaking a sweat.

A last fierce opponent connects weapon to Noah's flesh. Blood pours from his bicep. Noah doesn't blink. He crushes the bridge of the man's nose with the heel of his hand. The poacher collapses.

The remainder of the tribe quickly retreats into the surrounding hills.

As the smoke clears, Noah whistles for his boys. They stand up from hiding spots on the ridge and make their way down the hill.

Noah dresses the wound on his arm. He looks down at the bison. They are all dead.

SHEM

(on Noah's arm)

Are you all right?

NOAH

Fools. Such fools.

SHEM

Why do they do it?

NOAH

I do not know. One beast could feed them all. But they hunt for the only useless part of the body. The horn. They think it has power. But it is just like our hair, our nails - dead flesh. They kill life for this dead thing.

They hear a yelp. A lone JUVENILE BISON limps into sight.

Noah beckons for it with an outstretched hand. The bison is unsure. Afraid it considers running.

Noah calmly looks into its eyes. It is drawn to him.

It limps forward harboring an injured foot. Noah picks the tiny creature up, calming it instantly.

HAM

Can we help it?

Noah examines the foot and nods.

NOAH

Come, let's take her home.

Noah stands. He carries the creature up the hill.

Shem follows, leading his younger brother by hand.

CUT TO:

THE HOME CAMP

Five small domed huts huddle together around a cooking fire. The sun sets over a distant dormant volcano.

NAAMEH, Noah's wife, stands to greet her boys.
 JAPHETH, the couple's newborn, sleeps in her arms.

The young boys rush to kiss their mother and younger brother. Noah hands the bison to Shem.

NOAH

Be gentle.

Shem and Ham carefully carry the bison away.

Naameh sees Noah's bandaged arm and weary brow. He looks away, kisses Japheth on the head, then his wife's lips. She puts her questions on hold and kisses back.

CUT TO:

THE INFIRMARY HUT

Ham pets the bison as Shem feeds it through a cloth nipple.

Noah prepares an herb salve by firelight. He dresses the bison's wound.

SHEM

Will she get better?

NOAH

She will. Let her rest with the antelopes.

Shem and Ham carefully carry the creature out into

THE PENS

A great many animals recover in the makeshift veterinary hospital. Noah watches the boys set the bison under a covered shelter.

CUT TO:

NOAH AND NAAMEH'S HUT AT NIGHT

Naameh prepares their bed as Noah sits with his thoughts.

NAAMEH

What is it? What happened?

NOAH

They hunt now in father's valley.

NAAMEH

Then, we move again. Further.

NOAH

Is there anywhere left to disappear?

NAAMEH

There's always somewhere.

Noah doesn't answer.

NAAMEH

We will be all right. We will find
a place to raise our boys.

Noah doesn't answer. Instead, he lays down for sleep.
The bloodshed of the day lingers on his mind until he
shuts his eyes and we fade to

BLACK

A beat of just his breaths. Then, they too fade away.

The silence ends with the sound of a rain drop.

A single drop.

CUT INTO:

NOAH'S DREAM

He stands in the middle of a vast

DRIED-OUT SEABED

Noah stares at the outline of the raindrop in the parched
earth.

Now, it pours. A thunderous rain. Water gushes over and
off his nose, his chin.

Slowly, he looks up. This time he sees only water.

That is because he is

UNDERWATER

He opens his mouth. Bubbles rush out.

He panics. He starts to drown. Flailing he SCREAMS

AWAKE IN HIS HUT

Naameh grabs him. He takes a deep panicked breath.

NAAMEH

Noah?

He loosens her grip and pushes

OUTSIDE

He looks up into the night sky. Not a cloud in sight.
Just the Creator's stars staring down in judgement.

FADE TO:

HOME CAMP THAT MORNING

Naameh cooks for the boys. Noah sits on a boulder
outside the ring of tents staring at the horizon. She
watches him with concern.

LATER:

EDGE OF CAMP

Naameh sits on the boulder next to her husband. He
stares out at the world.

NAAMEH

The dream?

Noah nods. Naameh looks into his eyes. She sees
something.

NAAMEH

A vision.

She considers this for awhile.

NAAMEH

Then, the Creator speaks to you. Like He
did to your great-grandfather, no? What
did He show you?

Noah looks at his wife. He can't say.

NAAMEH

You've been chosen to hear Him.
What did He say?

He tears up. His voice chokes.

NOAH

He's going to destroy the world.

Sadness and shock fill her heart.

NAAMEH

What? Why?

NOAH

I don't...

Noah looks out, unsure. He closes his eyes and takes a stilted breath through clenched teeth.

He opens his eyes into a

VISION

He and Naameh sit on the same boulder. But the earth around them is no longer scorched and dead.

It is a thousand years ago, maybe ten thousand years ago. It might be the day after creation for the unspoiled earth looks like what Eden must have.

Clear streams filled with healthy fish and ancient forests filled with creatures that crawl and fly.

Noah takes a deep breath. The cool moist air fills his lungs with life. But then, in a moment, it is all gone.

Noah returns to

NOW

The contrast is like a punch to the stomach. The air lurches out of his lungs.

In front of him are the remnants of a tree that moments before was alive. The tree stump stands before him. He touches the rings of the tree. He knows the answer now.

NOAH

Because it is dying already. At our hand, all He created is dying.

NAAMEH

What shall he have us do?

NOAH

He must be giving us a chance. That is why He speaks.

(ponders)

If we change. If we work to save it, perhaps he will too.

CUT TO:

HOME CAMP

Noah chops and mixes herbs and plants. Shem watches and helps him move them into a large basket.

CUT TO:

THE FIRE PIT

On a nearby ridge, Noah sets the basket next to a raging fire. On the horizon, a tall pillar of rock called THE POINT sticks up from the desert floor.

He nods to his son. Shem dumps the contents of the basket into the fire.

The mixture lights up and burns brilliantly.

A thin pillar of red smoke shoots out of the fire and spreads out high in the sky. Soon, a red cloud hangs over the Earth.

NOAH

Now they will come.

Shem's smile disappears.

AT THE:

HOME CAMP

Ham spots the pillar of red smoke.

HAM

Look mother!

Naameh takes Ham and hugs him tightly.

FADE TO:

ANIMAL INFIRMARY

Noah removes the bandage from the young bison's hoof.

The wound is healed. Noah helps the young creature to its feet. She tenderly tests the leg. She gets comfortable and limps off joining the other antelopes.

Noah's smile breaks when he hears Shem.

SHEM

Father! Father!

Shem points. A plume of dust rises in the distance.

CUT TO:

HOME CAMP

Noah emerges from his hut wearing his priestly robes.

NAAMEH

Is it safe?

Noah looks at her but does not answer. She sees he must do this.

NAAMEH

Be careful.

Husband and wife kiss.

FADE TO:

THE POINT

A mesa rises up thin and straight from the ground like a giant column.

The red cloud floats high above it.

Noah stands at the base of the hand-hewn stairs that spiral up to the mount. He starts to climb.

FROM:

THE MOUNT

The dust plume is close. Through a scope, Noah spots riders carrying regal banners of royalty.

AT:

THE BASE

Fifty men ride giant mutated HORSE-BEASTS. The creatures resemble horses but have predator jaws and long nailed paws.

The ROYAL GUARD parts to reveal their leader, AKKAD. The gruff hulking man motions for them to stay as he takes the stairs alone.

BACK ON:

THE MOUNT

Noah waits. He sits on a small stool on a worn rug.
Behind him is an ancient prayer hut.

Sweating but not winded, Akkad arrives.

AKKAD

I am Akkad. I speak for all men
from sea to sea.
(points all directions)
And from sea to sea. Who is it that
calls me with the sign of our fathers?

Noah stands.

NOAH

Noah, son of Lamech, son of
Methusaleh, son of Enoch before him.
I call you as is my right as heir to
the line of Adam.

AKKAD

Methusaleh, Enoch. I know these
names. But not yours, Noah.

Noah nods back towards his home below the volcano. Akkad
follows his gaze.

NOAH

My family has chosen to live alone, in
private, studying the world, healing
it as best we can. But now the
Creator calls upon me to speak. Look!

Noah motions over the ravaged landscape.

NOAH

The world squirms beneath our foot, a
poisoned husk. The Creator sees this,
He mourns it, and will tolerate it no
longer. He would annihilate all in an
instant rather than watch this
creeping rot.

Akkad stares at Noah.

AKKAD

Strong words. And what would you have
me do?

NOAH

We must change. We must treat the
world with mercy so that the Creator
will show us mercy.

AKKAD

Mercy? How do you mean?

NOAH

We must respect the ground. Respect the rivers and seas. Respect the other beasts of the Earth. Stop the slaughter, the rape, the carnage.

Akkad starts to snicker. The snicker becomes an outright laugh.

NOAH

You laugh at me?

AKKAD

At your Creator. He gives us a land filled with death. Where it is impossible to find game to hunt. Where the ground no longer produces life and food. My people go hungry, die by sword and sickness, and you would have me pull the very meat out of their mouths? If this Creator wants our fealty let him fill our bellies first.

Akkad moves towards the stairs. Noah grabs him.

NOAH

Wait! You must listen...

Akkad turns and WHACKS Noah across the face with his axe handle.

SMASH TO:

BLACK FOR A MOMENT.

Slowly, Noah wakes with blood on his lip. He moves to the edge of the mount.

Akkad and his men are long gone. But then, he spots black smoke rise over the volcano. The volcano near his home.

NOAH

No.

He rushes down the stairs.

CUT TO:

HOME CAMP

The huts burn. The fields have been trampled. The animals massacred.

Akkad and his royal guard are just charging off. They carry whatever spoils they have found.

Before they are gone, Akkad looks back at Noah and smiles a gentle satisfied grin from the crest of a distant ridge. And then he is gone.

NAAMEH

Noah!

Naameh leads the 3 boys out from a hiding hole in the ground. They are unharmed. Noah rushes over and hugs them.

At their feet lies the carcass of the young bison they just healed. Its baby horn sliced off. Blood leaks from the open hole.

FADE TO:

REMAINS OF THE CAMP

The heart of night. Noah has managed to build a fire to keep warm. Naameh holds on to him. The kids sleep nearby. He stokes the fire with a stick.

FADE TO:

BLACK

A long beat of silence.

A rain drop, a single drop crashes against the ground.

CUT IN:

NOAH'S DREAM

Noah stands in the middle of a vast

DRIED-OUT SEABED

He stares at the outline of the raindrop in the parched earth.

He looks around. The horizon stretches forever. In one direction, and only one direction there is a lone mountain shooting out of the earth.

Noah knows this mountain. It is from his childhood.

NOAH

(whispers)
Grandfather.

He steps towards it. Just then, it starts to pour.

A thunderous rain. Water gushes over and off his nose,
his chin.

Now he is

UNDERWATER

A corpse floats by. Noah's eyes go wide. Suddenly, he
is looking down on all of humanity.

Millions upon millions of dead. And only he is alive.
Bubbles rush out of his mouth.

He panics. He flails. He screams

AWAKE

Back at his

HOME

Naameh hugs him. His breaths short.

He looks up at the nighttime sky. The stars stare down.

NOAH

He doesn't wish them to listen.
They are meant to die.

NAAMEH

All of them?

NOAH

Punishment. For what they've
done.

NAAMEH

And what of us?

NOAH

We are to go to Ararat.

NAAMEH

To grandfather?

NOAH

Yes. We must go.

NAAMEH

When?

Noah looks up. The morning wears upon the edge of night.

NOAH

Now.

CUT TO:

DESOLATE WASTELAND

A mean wind descends upon Noah and his family.

Noah carries Ham on his back. Naameh has Japheth strapped to her chest. Shem follows.

Everything is dead and sullen around them.

FADE TO:

BARE RISE

The wind has died down. Shem leads the family up a hill, playing a tune on his flute.

On the horizon is the mountain from Noah's dream.

NAAMEH

Is that it?

NOAH

Mt. Ararat.

NAAMEH

You think he lives still?

At the hill's crest Shem stops playing. He stares off at a

BURNING VILLAGE

Homes and fields drenched in flames.

NAAMEH

Let us go around.

Noah heads into the settlement.

NOAH

No, let the children see. This is what we have become.

The family follows him into

THE CENTRAL PLAZA

All the inhabitants of the village are here. They have been slaughtered and piled in heaps.

Nothing moves. Only a lone RAVEN hops from corpse to corpse. The boys looks at the horror.

NAAMEH

It's enough.

NOAH

(agrees)

Come.

SHEM (O.S.)

Mother!

Noah and Naameh turn. Shem holds the hand of a young girl, maybe six.

They rush back to have a look.

The girl moans in and out of consciousness.

Noah looks: she has a severe belly wound. He pulls herbs and bandages from his pack and starts to treat her.

NOAH

Your name, you have a name.

YOUNG GIRL

Ila.

NOAH

Ila. You are going to be all right, Ila. Shem is going to hold your hand and he won't let go.

She looks gratefully up at Shem as he squeezes her hand.

Something startles the Raven. It flies off. A distant rumble. Noah hands the bandages to Naameh and hurries up a

SMALL HILL

He sees a warring ARMY approaching. Noah rushes back and scoops the girl up.

NOAH

Come we must move.

Just as they leave the village the army pours in. The family moves out into the bush towards Mt. Ararat.

Noah holds the girl tight. He looks up when he notices that his family has stopped.

NOAH

What?

Naameh and the boys stare up at a giant skull. It would look human if it weren't the size of a beach ball. It rests neatly on a post.

In both directions giant skulls placed on posts sit every thirty feet. Less a barrier than a warning.

NAAMEH

What are they?

NOAH

Watchers.

NAAMEH

They exist?

SHEM

Like the stories?

NOAH

This must be where the last survivors were banished.

SHEM

Do they still live?

NOAH

I do not know. They would be ancient if they did. But if they do, they have no love for man.

Behind them, the approaching army spots them. They hear cries. Men mount beasts and start to come after them.

NAAMEH

They've seen us.

Noah looks up at grandfather's mountain. Looming so near. Yet the skulls before him are intimidating.

Noah looks at Ila, feverish, in his arms.

NOAH

Come. Follow me.

Noah guides his family between two large skulls into the

INTERZONE

The mounted soldiers arrive moments later. But they stop at the skulls.

They call for Noah to come back. They warn the family of doom. But Noah pays them no mind.

A hundred yards later they come to a second barrier, this one is made of human skulls and faces into Watcher lands.

NOAH

Warning for them as well.

Ham starts to cry. Naameh scoops him up. They pass the barrier and enter

WATCHERS' LAND

Grandfather's mountain beckons them.

FADE TO BLACK.

And this quote:

GENESIS 6:4

Giants walked the Earth in those days, and later too. These were mighty men of ancient times, the men of renown.

Return to a

DESOLATE GORGE ON WATCHERS' LAND

The family moves silently and quickly. Mating beetles fill the air with a piercing whistle. Large fissures in the ground reach down to underground caverns. Huge remnants of what must have been massive buildings jut diagonally out of the ground.

Suddenly, the beetles go quiet.

Noah stops. Gently, he places Ila on the ground as he unfastens his blade.

Then, he is cast in shadow. Noah spins.

Blocking the sun, towering over him stands OG, a WATCHER.

18 feet tall, ageless, sexless and covered with a light dusting of fur. Breathing heavily the angry beast has six fully functional arms.

Ham and Shem wail. Naameh hugs them.

The ground shakes. Ten, then twenty, then thirty more Watchers climb out of the cracks in the ground.

Og reaches for the family. Noah grabs his magic packets and tosses them at Og's feet. But Og rips his own packets from his belt. He throws them at Noah's. They collide and are defused.

Noah is stunned. Og nods to his fellow Watchers.

Three of them with sticks and collars step forward and quickly pin Noah to the ground.

CUT TO:

WATCHER'S ROOST

Noah's hands are cuffed behind his back. His family is bound next to him.

SAMYAZA, the scarred and grizzled leader of the Watchers stares down at Noah from a giant throne of human bones.

He looks at Og and speaks the language of the ancients.

SAMYAZA

(in Ancient; with subtitles)

Spies. Take them to the Hollow and let them rot.

Og starts to act but Noah speaks.

NOAH

(in Ancient; with subtitles)

We are not spies.

The Watchers are stunned by Noah's linguistics.

NOAH

We only wish to pass through your land.

SAMYAZA

You speak our tongue?

NOAH

My grandfather taught me. He lives on Ararat. We cross your lands to reach him.

Og's eyes light up.

OG
He is a child of the old one!

Samyaza rises up, Og cowers.

SAMYAZA
Quiet. Don't be a fool. This is
a man. Men cheat. They steal.
They kill.

OG
But Samyaza, he travels with
children. An injured child.

SAMYAZA
A trick. Remember. In years
past, they have used even their
babies to enslave us. Men can
never be trusted.

He leans in and glares at the children. They shrink in
terror.

SAMYAZA
They are all traitors. They
betrayed us after they betrayed
the Creator.

NOAH
It is He who sent me.

The Watchers gasp as one. Samyaza explodes in fury.

SAMYAZA
You lie. I sat next to the Creator
as he formed the first man. Would
he speak to you, a man, before he
speaks with me? No, this is a
trick. Take them, let them rot
alone under the sun.

The Watchers descend upon the family. As they are
dragged away, Og looks deep into Noah's eyes.

SAMYAZA
(calmer, to Og)
The Creator does not speak
anymore, Og, to anyone. You know
that. He has left us alone, here,
forever.

Samyaza sinks into a glum silence. And Og ponders.

CUT TO:

THE HOLLOW AT DUSK

The family is stuck in a pit. The last rays of the ruthless sun abandon the sweating family as well. Noah searches for escape but the walls are steep.

FADE TO:

LATER

Noah paces unsure what to do. His children sleep in their mother's arms. Somewhere, far away, Noah can hear the Watchers arguing. He listens but cannot make out their words.

Ila, the young girl moans. Shem holds her hand.

Noah carefully looks at her wound. She has a severe cut on her stomach. He cleans it. The pain wakes the little girl, who breathes in sharply.

NOAH

Shh. You will be all right. I
will make sure of it.

She believes his voice and stares up into his eyes. They connect for a moment. He dresses the wound with fresh bandages, but the contact of the new cloth makes her cry.

So Noah starts to hum an ancient tune. A lullaby. He lifts the girl up and rocks her back and forth, back and forth. And now he sings.

NOAH

*Sleep my child.
Surrender
to the wild.
Find your breath.
Find your peace.
Sleep my child.
Surrender to the wild.
Find your breath.
Find your peace...*

The girl dozes off. Noah lays her down next to Shem. Naameh places a hand on her husband's shoulder.

NAAMEH

(whisper)
How is she?

NOAH

Her womanhood is gone.
She shall never bear children.

NAAMEH

But will she survive?

NOAH

If any of us do.

They hear a sound.

Noah looks up. A Watcher descends down on the wall. His six arms makes it look easy.

He drops silently into the pit. It is Og. Noah pushes Naameh behind him. The giant's teeth glisten in the moonlight.

Man and Watcher stare each other down.

Og reaches out a hand. Noah hesitates. Og nods.

Noah reaches out.

CUT TO:

WATCHERS' LAND

Moving quickly towards Mt. Ararat in the north, Og leads the family through the dark night.

NAAMEH

Why help us?

Noah translates. Og considers before answering.

OG

The Creator formed us on the second day, the day He made the heavens. We stood by His side and watched all Creation flower. To us, everything He made was beautiful, but man was the most beautiful of all.

Og wallows in his nostalgia. Noah translates to the family.

OG

We watched over Adam and Eve. Saw their frailty and their love. And then we saw their fall. We saw the Creator expel them from His Garden. We pitied them. One mistake, one forbidden bite and they were sent out to scrape a hard existence from the dry soil.

(beat)

Samyaza was the greatest of us then. He loved men most of all and decided we should leave the Creator's side and come down to help man.

As Og speaks we glimpse

THE DAWN OF HUMANITY

All white winged Watchers descend through clouds. They glide to Earth.

They pick up speed, faster and faster. Their wings start to tear apart. They ignite. Og, Samyaza, and all the Watchers plummet as they burn.

From the ground, humans watch comets shoot out of the sky.

The Watchers smash into Earth.

Without wings, slowly they stand in blackened craters. Their pure white color now the familiar gray.

Humans arrive to stare at these "gods." Back to now, in

WATCHERS' LAND

Og leads as he tells his story.

OG

We taught man all we knew. Magic and Science. Knowledge of plants, stars, metals, and fire. Of all things that would help them live upon the land. But they surprised us.

Return to

THE DAWN OF HUMANITY

Men turn knowledge into tools. The tools soon become weapons.

OG

They turned our gifts to war. Turned them first against the ground, water, air and beasts. And then back upon us.

Men attack the Watchers. Og, Samyaza, and others fight back but there are too many of them.

OG

We were hunted. Many of us enslaved. We were forced to fight back to survive. To hide in this forsaken land.

Back in

WATCHERS' LAND

Dawn approaches. The outline of Mt. Ararat before them.

OG

We asked The Creator to take us home.
But He was silent. He has turned his
back on us. All these years we have
lived here forsaken and alone. And now
you say you have heard the Creator.
Samyaza cannot believe this, he is too
angry and bitter. But I look at you
and I see the same awe I saw in Adam's
eyes. The Creator speaks with you. I
do not know why. But I believe it.
And I will help you.

They arrive at the far end of the Watcher's lands. On
this side too is the barrier of human skulls.

OG

Perhaps the Creator will open his
heart to me again?

NOAH

I do not know. I hope so. But I
will accept your help. Join us?

Noah walks north through the barrier of skulls. He
stops. Og looks over his shoulder, unsure. He takes a
breath and follows.

Naameh sets Ham down. He whines until Og scoops him up.
Ham panics for a moment but Og moves him from arm to arm.
The boy loves it and starts to laugh.

The family laughs as well.

CUT TO:

BASE OF MT. ARARAT

Noah pitches the huts while Naameh cares for Ila. With
one hand Og scoops out the dirt for a fire pit.

Noah grabs some warm clothes. Turns to his boys.

NOAH

I will be back by morning.

He heads up the mountain. From a

MOUNTAIN REST POINT

Noah looks down on his camp. Naameh has started a fire. She's probably cooking.

He looks off to the horizon. Nothing but empty parched sad earth. He looks up the mountain behind him.

Still a ways to go. He continues

UP TO:

OUTSIDE METHUSALEH'S CAVE

Noah reaches a modest opening in the mountain.

He takes a moment to catch his breath and contemplate the late sun.

He removes his shoes and places them near the entrance of the cave. Then, he heads

INSIDE

It is dark.

Noah advances. Soon the light from outside disappears.

Until everything is pitch black. Just footsteps.

Up ahead a single candle flame glows.

As Noah approaches it grows brighter. The sides of the cave are revealed.

Noah sits down and breathes.

On the far side of the flame sits his grandfather METHUSALEH. Praying.

The oldest man alive, he walked the earth when Adam still lived. His uncut 900 year old hair attests to this.

Two cups of steaming tea sit between them. Noah waits for his grandfather to acknowledge him.

A long beat.

The old man slowly raises his chin. Then, his eyes creep open. They sparkle with youthful immortality.

The old man smiles oh so very slightly.

METHUSALEH

Grandson.

NOAH

Grandfather.

Methusaleh motions to the tea. Noah drinks.

METHUSALEH

What did He show you?

NOAH

Water. Flood.

Methusaleh lets out a sad sigh.

NOAH

I tried to warn them. But their leader...

METHUSALEH

No need. He has judged man.

NOAH

Yes! But us? Why does he call me?

METHUSALEH

I do not know.

NOAH

But I saw Ararat. He sent me here.

METHUSALEH

I have only this. It is from my father.

NOAH

Enoch.

METHUSALEH

The day he went to walk with the Creator he gave it to me and said one day it was to come to you.

He hands Noah a cloth wrapped package. Inside is a ancient wrinkled seed.

NOAH

A seed? What is it for?

But grandfather does not answer. He closes his eyes.

Slowly he lowers his chin.

NOAH

Grandfather?

But there is no answer. Noah looks at the seed in his palm.

CUT TO:

MOUNTAIN BASE CAMP

Noah sits at the camp's fire. He churns the red hot coals with a stick.

Og and the children sleep.

Naameh holds onto Noah.

NOAH

Nothing. He knew nothing.

NAAMEH

What are we to do?

Noah doesn't have an answer.

FADE TO BLACK.

IN THE DARKNESS

The sound of a drop of rain. Then more.

A storm. Now

UNDERWATER

Noah is calm. He is alone. He looks around. Nothing but water.

Suddenly there are animals everywhere around him. They are underwater and they are drowning.

He looks up.

Up above is the surface to the ocean of water he is now beneath.

He starts to swim. He swims for the surface.

And then he sees it.

A rectangle of darkness floats on the surface. It is a ship. His eyes burst open

AWAKE

He rushes

GENESIS 6:13

And the Creator said unto Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the Earth is filled with violence through man; behold I will destroy them with the Earth. Make yourself an Ark."

When the words disappear we

FADE IN:

MAIN HUT

Everyone sleeps. Noah hears a noise. He wakes.

He looks around. No one stirs. Shem holds the young girl's hand, asleep.

The noise is coming from beyond the tent. Noah rushes

OUTSIDE

He spots Og being dragged away.

NOAH

Stop.

A mob of Watchers turn to face Noah. Samyaza spins around.

SAMYAZA

This is not your business man.

NOAH

There is work to be done. Help us.

SAMYAZA

Help you!? Your kind turned our charity into our torture. You wish to wipe us clean from this world. You anger me man, and now I will show you fury.

Samyaza rises up. His chest surges. His eyes narrow.

Noah is terrified.

OG

No!

Og leaps upon Samyaza. They wrestle. The other Watchers pull Og away. Samyaza unleashes his sword. He raises it, ready to kill. But suddenly, he stops.

He hears something -- BUBBLING WATER. They look over to the sound.

In the same spot where Noah planted Methusaleh's seed they watch water push out of the dry earth.

A gentle fountain gurgling water.

Noah approaches the fountain. He bends down and tastes the water.

Nothing remarkable. Just clean crisp water.

Then, the earth begins to rumble. An earthquake? He backs away unsure what it is. The Watchers look around concerned. The rumbling grows louder.

Noah spots a plant push out of the ground thirty feet away. The plant quickly grows into a mature fully grown tree.

And now, next to it, another tree forms. The rumbling grows, something moving underground in all directions.

Naameh rushes out followed quickly by the terrified boys. Og picks them up protectively.

More trees burst from the earth. A spiral of growing forest circles Noah, his family and the Watchers.

We rise high above this miracle and witness a hundred acres of fresh woods emerge.

The Watchers are stunned. Shem takes his father's hand.

SHEM

What's this?

NOAH

A miracle, son. A miracle to start us on our way. My axe, now. Go fetch it.

Shem runs to get it.

Og looks to his fellow Watchers.

OG

See! This man does not lie. We need to help?

Unsure, the Watchers turn to Samyaza. The ancient giant limps over and touches a tree.

Samyaza looks up at Og. There are tears in his eyes.

SAMYAZA

This is the Creator's work. The Creator is here. I see that. We will help this man, Noah. Maybe the Creator will forgive and take us home.

Shem hands the axe to his father.

Noah walks to the first tree. He runs his hand over the bark. Takes a silent moment of prayer.

NOAH

Thank you.

He takes a deep breath. Then swings the axe. It lands with a loud THWACK.

SHEM

Look!

Noah follows Shem's eyes. Earth around the pool of water formed by the new fountain cracks apart. Water pushes into the cracks forming rivulets.

Noah whacks the tree again. The rivulets get longer, radiating out from the burbling fountain.

NAAMEH

What are they for?

NOAH

I don't know! More miracles. Unless... Yes!

He starts to laugh and then to chop harder. He whacks again and again. The rivulets shoot past the family.

The Watchers start to help. Og grabs a high branch and starts to pull. Samyaza does the same.

We drift higher and higher over the forest.

CUT TO:

DEEPER IN THE FOREST

We can still hear Noah's chopping. With each chop the water tendrils stretch further and further away along the forest floor.

CUT TO:

THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

We no longer hear Noah's chopping but we sense the rhythm as the rivulets stretch out of the forest. They reach out across the cracked dry soil to the ends of the earth.

FADE TO BLACK.

A DEAD SEA

As seasons change, a single rivulet whips across a dried up ocean bed. It passes a rotting wooden ship grounded centuries ago.

The rivulet splits in two and then branches off again in every direction. They stretch out like nerve endings.

FADE TO BLACK.

ROCKY LANDSCAPE

Fall to winter to spring to summer all in a flash. But still, the water works it's way up a steep hill defying gravity.

FADE TO BLACK.

IN THE DARKNESS

These words burn:

GENESIS 6:19

"And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every sort into the Ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every sort shall come in to you, to keep them alive."

RETURN TO:

A DUSTY FIELD

A skinny, mangy, dirty FEMALE DOVE pecks at the ground, searching helplessly for something to eat.

The rivulet rushes by tossing the Dove into the air.
Confused, the Dove circles trying to get its bearings.
It lands next to the rivulet.

The Dove examines the water. Pecks at it. Then, takes a long drink.

The bird looks towards the rivulet's source. It blinks. Then it leaps into the air and soars, following the water.

FADE TO BLACK.

OVER A BARREN LANDSCAPE

Nighttime, the Dove continues to fly. Down below two rivulets reunite into a single one.

Various animals of all shapes and sizes follow the water.

A great migration. The greatest migration ever.

FADE TO BLACK.

DESOLATE LANDSCAPE

The Dove flies on, the dying world passes beneath her.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

As the sun rises the Dove can just make out the forest.

The Dove rises up high into the blue sky and we reveal

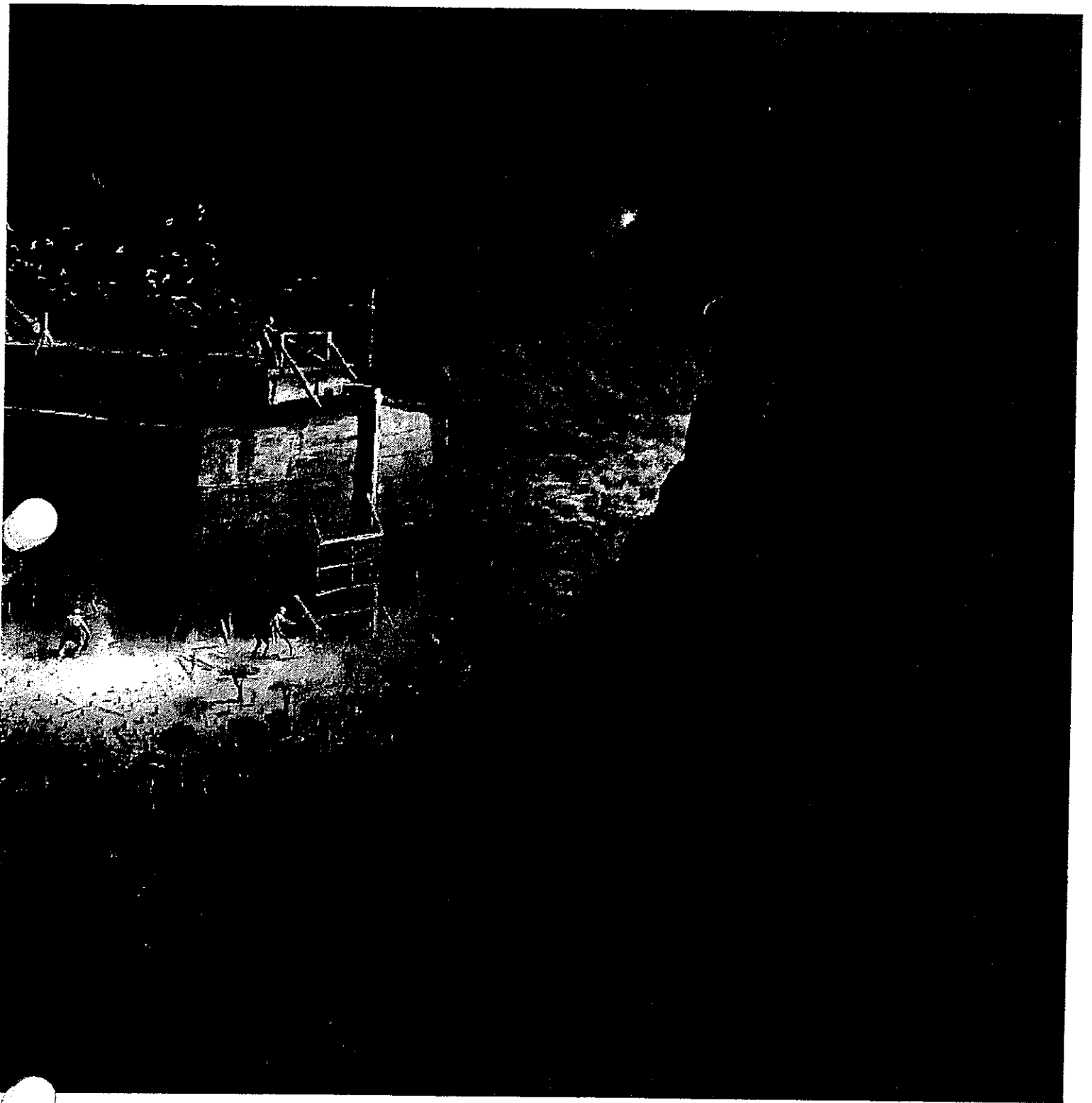
THE ARK

A massive wooden rectangle 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, 45 feet tall, the Ark is 80% completed.

The fountain at the center of the forest still bubbles up from the earth, but now a shallow pond has formed lapping against the great ship's side.

A small army of Watchers work on the ship. Some log, some perform carpentry, others seal it with tar.

Noah is in the center of it all. Ten years have passed and the foreman is starting to gray.



The Dove lands at his feet. He reaches out a hand.

JAPHETH, aged 10 now, runs right at the bird. The bird flutters away.

NOAH

Gentle!

Noah watches the bird circle the Ark. And for the first time he sees a cloud in the otherwise clear sky.

It seems to be moving towards them.

CUT TO:

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Moving quickly now with a YOUNG WOMAN, no more than 17, full of life, beauty and innocence. Rushing past trees, ducking under branches until exhausted she trips.

A moment later a YOUNG MAN descends upon her. A lumberjack's shoulders, carpenter's hands, poet's eyes.

She yelps as they wrestle on the forest floor, but not from terror.

YOUNG WOMAN

No, please, no.

He bites her neck. She giggles. He kisses her lips. She kisses back.

The kisses start to roam. She kisses his ears. His neck. He kisses her throat. The dimple above her collarbone. The space between her breasts.

His hands and lips glide lower. He removes her shirt. She resists. But he insists. He kisses her belly.

A thick scar lies across it. We recognize this scar.

The woman is Ila, the young girl Noah saved years ago. That makes the young man Shem. He kisses the scar tenderly. His hands caress it and pass lower.

Ila trembles and then she winces.

ILA

Shem, wait.

Shem presses his luck.

SHEM

(teasing)

I am waiting.

Ila winces again. She grabs his head and pulls him up to her. She kisses him strongly and between kisses:

ILA

Please. I want to. I do. But I can't. You know.

SHEM

It still hurts?

ILA

Father says it always will.

Shem lowers his hand, frustrated. A branch cracks. They both look. Shem scurries quickly to investigate.

Through the bush he spots HAM, now 15 and very curious, watching them. Ham sees Shem, blushes and runs away.

Shem frowns, then turns back to his love. But she is staring up at the sky.

He follows her eyes up.

A stream of birds crosses the sky. The stream soon turns into a river. The river a moving sea. The forest darkens as the countless wings blot out the sun.

The lovers grab hands and rush towards

THE ARK

Noah hears the calls first. Then he sees the BIRDS converge from every direction. He stares up at the great circling diving mass, cackling and cawing their songs.

The family circles around Noah as some of the birds touch down before him.

He spots a Raven. Next to it is a second Raven. Male and female.

He stretches out his right hand, the Raven leaps onto it. He reaches out his left hand. The other Raven leaps up.

He looks at both birds. The birds look at him. He brings his hands together. Their beaks touch. He lowers his hands and the Ravens fly off into the Ark.

Noah spots another pair of birds. He places out two hands. They leap up, touch beaks and fly into the Ark.

Noah smiles. Pair by pair he starts loading the ship.

NAAMEH

A miracle.

The boys smile with glee. Ham and Japheth rush after a pair of birds into

THE ARK

They follow the birds as they soar through the empty ship. They land and perch next to the previous pair of birds. Two more birds arrive, then two more.

FADE TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK

The sun has set. Up on the Ark, Shem oversees his Watcher shipbuilders. He wipes his sweaty brow and peers down on his father.

Noah continues to load the boat. The line of birds looks like it will never end.

FADE TO:

LATER AT DAWN

The morning sun wakes Naameh who sleeps by the entrance.

Noah still stands before her. He is barely conscious. His eyes flutter open and closed. His pupils are unfocused.

The ground is covered with feathers. There is only one bird left. It is our Dove. It looks up at him.

He reaches out his hands. The Dove does not move.

NOAH
(barely audible)
Come, be spared.

But the Dove does nothing. Naameh walks to her husband.

NAAMEH
It has no mate. So perhaps it
cannot come?

Noah looks up at the sky for the dove's partner.

NOAH
Then we wait.

NAAMEH
The bird can wait. You need rest.

She leads him towards the boat.

CUT TO:

BLACK

Noah wakes up

INSIDE

The noise is deafening. He exits his hut wiping sleep from his eyes.

The Ark is filled with two of every species of bird.

Japheth pets a bird in his hand.

NOAH

Japheth!

The boy freezes. Noah takes the bird away.

NOAH

Listen, all of you. Look. Here are two.
Two and only two of each kind.

Noah opens some herb filled jars stored nearby. He mixes the contents together.

NOAH

If they survive the storm they will breed and spread across the world. But if a single creature in our care dies then a piece of holy Creation will be lost forever. So, we must treat them with the greatest care.

Noah lights the mixture. It burns. Then he douses it with water. Smoke pours out. He blows the smoke onto the birds. They fall into a slumber.

The boys are amazed. Noah hands the dish to Ham.

NOAH

They will sleep. This my sons will be your job. Make sure all the beasts that enter this Ark sleep. There are only two. Two of each. Remember that. They will sleep and they will be safe.

Naameh follows Noah

OUTSIDE

The Dove still waits.

Noah looks down at it. Then up at the sky. No birds. But a pocket of white fluffy clouds floats up above over the Ark and the surrounding forest. Some patches of the dusk sky still peek through, but not many.

Ham comes out and stands next to his mother and father.

HAM

Father.

NOAH

Yes son.

HAM

All the birds are twos. You have mother. Shem has Ila. But what of me? And Japheth? Who is there for us?

Noah hesitates, worried. Then he picks up his son.

NOAH

People will come, many people will come, they will follow the beasts. And when they do, we can find you a wife.

Ham smiles. But Naameh screams and points.

NAAMEH

The ground is moving.

The ground undulates and closes in on the Ark.

Noah steps forward peering into the darkness. The REPTILES of the world have arrived.

Lizards, snakes, newts, salamanders, turtles and their like approach. They stretch across the open field to the forest in the distance.

Noah kneels down before them.

He reaches out his hands. Two by two they approach and pass by him.

Naameh watches two snakes slither by.

NAAMEH

The pests as well?

NOAH

All of the Creator's creations.
Each after its kind. They all
must be saved!

CUT TO:

IN THE FOREST

Shem is a master lumberjack and with only a few chops he fells a great tree.

The three Watchers assist Shem. With six arms and great might they are even more efficient than Shem.

The Watchers load the trees onto a sled and start heading back towards the Ark.

Shem hears a strange noise. He looks over. The Watchers stop and look back at Shem.

SHEM

Go ahead.

The Watchers head off into the bush.

Shem moves to another tree. He notices some blood on the ground. Curious he follows the trail and finds more blood, a lot of blood.

A few more feet and he finds the discarded remnants of a dead SPIKED WARTHOG.

He climbs around a bend and sees the MAMMALS arriving from every direction: rats, wild dogs, the great cats, gazelles, antelopes, rhinos, oxen, elephants. Many of the animals we recognize, many we don't.

Tracking them and feeding off of them are hordes of REFUGEES, beyond number.

Shem keeps moving to get a better vantage point when he walks into a tribe of MEN feasting on poached animals.

The men stare at Shem. Shem stares at the men.

They reach for their weapons. He rushes into the bush.

The men chase. Running at full speed Shem leaps for an overhanging branch and swings himself up into the canopy.

The enemy runs by oblivious.

CUT BACK:

INTO THE ARK

Japheth plays with two small fork-toed LIZARDS. He looks over at Ham who is busy putting animals to sleep.

Japheth secretly slides the tiny lizards into his satchel.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK

Noah loads the last two reptiles into the Ark. He sighs, a moment to rest. He looks at the Dove which still waits.

He lowers his head and heads into the Ark when Shem rushes out of the forest.

SHEM

Father! Father!

Just then HORDES push out of the tree line.

The people spot the Ark. They point, stunned and amazed. They start to approach.

From atop the ship, Og puts six hands to his mouth and lets out a mighty bellow.

From all directions, The Watchers hear the call and descend on the Hordes. The humans see the mythical monsters approach and they quickly retreat in terror.

CUT TO:

LATER AT THE MOUTH OF THE ARK

Og, Shem, and Noah discuss options.

NOAH

They will return. Whether through courage or fear. Sooner or later they will come.

(to Og)

Can you hold them when they do?

OG

There's too many. Eventually they will overwhelm us.

Noah looks up to the sky. The grey clouds have a touch of angry black in them now.

NOAH

Shem you must finish as fast as
you can.

CUT TO:

UP ON THE ROOF

Shem works furiously.

CUT TO:

JAPHETH'S HUT

Alone, Japheth plays with his pet lizards.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK

A sea of mammals surrounds the Ark. Noah reaches out his hands. A pair moves forward. He touches them on the forehead and they walk past him onto the Ark.

BACK:

UP ON THE ROOF

Og stops working. He senses something. He looks out at the tree line.

He screams for Noah.

DOWN BELOW

Noah looks up. Fifty mounted men carrying white flags approach.

Their leader is AKKAD, the same man Noah met at the Point. Akkad is grey and scarred by years of war.

He rides his mount back and forth behind the mass of beasts waiting to be loaded onto the Ark.

AKKAD

Noah! Son of Lamech! Noah!

Shem joins his father's side.

NOAH

How many days till you're
finished?

SHEM

Three at best.

Noah looks to Og and his fellow Watchers.

NOAH

Come.

Noah walks towards Akkad, the animals parting to let him pass. Akkad spots Noah and smiles. He trots towards him. When they get close Akkad dismounts. He walks the final distance to face Noah.

AKKAD

Old friend.

Noah sees a baby bison horn hanging from Akkad's neck. It must be the same horn he stole a decade past.

NOAH

What do you want?

AKKAD

You told me once the world would be destroyed. Such a good friend, I should have believed you. I didn't. Not till we saw the great exodus of beasts. Not till the scouts followed them to a forest that should not exist. A forest covered by rain clouds.

Akkad looks at the dark sky and laughs.

AKKAD

Well I believe you now. You'll be glad to know I've repented, Noah. Repented deeply, just as you preached. And I think I deserve to be saved. Don't you?

NOAH

Then save yourself. The trees are plentiful. Start building.

AKKAD

I think I like your ship. The Creator will surely protect it.

NOAH

The Ark is full.

AKKAD

Full?

Akkad laughs. It's preposterous that the immense boat could be full. Then he puts it all together.

AKKAD

Beasts?

NOAH

By the Creator's command.

AKKAD

Well unload them! Look at my people.

Akkad nods to his FLAG BEARER. He raises the flag. In response thousands of flags rise out of the forest. His soldiers hidden in the woods let out a deafening cry.

AKKAD

On my word, these armies shall storm the forest. They shall storm your ship. We will kill your beasts and murder your family.

Noah weighs the threat. He looks to Shem and the days of work left on the Ark.

NOAH

Very well. We will help each other. Friend. When the time comes I will take ten men of your choosing.

Shem steals an incredulous glance at his father.

SHEM

Father!

Noah stares Shem into silence.

AKKAD

Twenty-five. With women.

Noah nods. Shem bristles.

NOAH

But you must do your part. Your people obey you now. There is still order. But if you leave, their allegiance will dissolve. You must give them hope. Have them build ships. When the rain comes, then come to me with your twenty-five.

AKKAD

I will come with the rains, Noah. With twenty-five if you keep your word. Or if you cross me, I will come with thousands.

(eyes Noah, until satisfied:)

Until the rains, then!

Akkad rides off with his men.

Shem stares at his father dumbfounded.

NOAH

Don't you see, I got you your three
days. Finish as fast as you can.

FADE TO BLACK.

ROOF OF THE ARK

Shem and the Watchers are busy at work.

CUT TO:

JAPHETH'S HUT

Japheth plays with his two lizards.

Ham enters and sees what his brother is doing.

HAM

Japheth.

Japheth, startled, drops the lizards.

HAM

Father will be furious!

Japheth recovers one, but the other slips under the side
of the hut.

Japheth quickly runs to look for it. Ham follows. He
sees it slip out of the hearth into the main animal area.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S HUT

Noah studies his charts. Naameh stands in the doorway.

NAAMEH

They've come. Isn't it time now?
For Ham and Japheth.

He doesn't respond.

NAAMEH

Noah?

NOAH

I wonder...

NAAMEH

Wonder what?

NOAH

If a world without men would be a better world.

NAAMEH

What do you mean?

NOAH

Perhaps the Creator does not mean us to find wives for Ham and Japheth.

NAAMEH

(alarmed)

Then there will never be anymore children. No more people.

Noah looks at Naameh. That's exactly what he meant.

NAAMEH

No. It makes no sense. Then why would He let us survive.

NOAH

To shepherd these beasts to safety. Maybe that is all. And then mankind disappears. It would be a better world.

NAAMEH

But these are our children. Your sons. They are good boys. They shall raise their children right. A world full of good men. Surely that's what The Creator wants?

NOAH

I don't know. I don't know what he asks.

Noah buries his face in his hands. Naameh touches his shoulder.

NAAMEH

Noah, they are our boys...

Noah's frustration snaps into anger.

NOAH

Leave me, wife. I need to think.

But she doesn't leave. She looks at him with softness.
He grunts and storms out.

CUT TO:

ANIMAL QUARTERS

Japheth and Ham chase after the lizard.

HAM

Get it!

Japheth leaps for it, but he leaps a bit hard, his hand
grabs the lizard but his body slides and he crushes the
creature when he smashes into the wall.

He looks in his hand, the lizard's neck is bent the wrong
way. The boys are stunned.

Noah has seen it all.

NOAH

What have you done?!!!

HAM

Father, he didn't mean to. It was
a mistake, it was...

Noah can't control his rage. He spins.

NOAH

A mistake?!!

He SLAPS Ham. Ham falls down. He glares at his father.

Noah can't believe what he's done.

NOAH

Oh. Ham. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

But Ham runs off.

Naameh arrives having heard the commotion. Japheth crying
leaps into her arms.

NOAH

It was... I...

NAAMEH

What did you do?

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK AT DUSK

In the distant forest the Hordes chop down trees for boats.

In front of the Ark, Noah digs a hole and buries the lizard. He stares at the grave. Naameh arrives.

NAAMEH

Japheth has fallen asleep.

NOAH

And Ham?

NAAMEH

We can't find him. What happened between you?

NOAH

I'm not sure. I saw the dead creature. The Creator's creature, gone forever now. I was furious, I...

NAAMEH

They are just boys.

NOAH

I know. Just boys. And I struck out. I hurt my son.

Noah's voice cracks.

NAAMEH

They will forgive you.

NOAH

Should they?

(Swallows)

I thought somehow we were different. I look out at all those lost souls and I sympathize with them. They are no different than us. We are no different than them. The same wickedness is in all of us.

Naameh tries to comfort Noah.

NAAMEH

Come to bed.

NOAH

Not now.

She let's him stay and returns inside.

In the shadow of the Ark hides Ham, watching all.

FADE TO:

THE NEXT MORNING

Ham wakes. He looks out. Noah keeps vigil at the grave.
His mother emerges and sits with his father.

NAAMEH

You haven't slept. What were you--

NOAH

There will be no wives.

NAAMEH

It was a mistake. An accident.
You can't blame them for that.

NOAH

I do not blame them, I blame
myself. It is not what they did.
It was my response. My anger!
(nods to himself)
Ham and Japheth will survive the
deluge, but they will survive
alone.

Ham catches every word.

NAAMEH

They are innocent boys! Children.

NOAH

And they will be the last. They
must be. We have undone Creation.
And we would do it again. If not
our children, then our children's
children.

NAAMEH

Your grandchildren!

NOAH

Yes. Or great-grandchildren. We
are men, like all the others, just
as wicked as the rest. And as
long as there are men creation
will not be safe.

Ham backs away from his parents. He sneaks past a group of
sleeping giants, crawls behind the back of the one on guard,
and slips into the woods.

CUT TO:

JAPHETH'S HUT

Japheth lies on his mat, all cried out. Noah enters and kneels next to his youngest son.

JAPHETH

Father. I am so sorry. I did not mean to hurt it--

NOAH

Quiet now. It's not your fault. It's mine.

Japheth tears up again.

JAPHETH

But I killed it! It did nothing wrong and now it is dead.

NOAH

Yes. That's what people do to beasts.

JAPHETH

Why?

NOAH

We can't help it. It is the way we are. But the animals will be safe from now on.

JAPHETH

They will?

NOAH

They will. I will make sure of it. And you can help me.

Noah carefully hands the live lizard to Japheth.

NOAH

This one is all alone now. The last of its kind. Why don't you take care of it?

Japheth pets the reptile, smiles. Noah lets them bond.

NOAH

Have you seen your brother?

Japheth shakes his head no. Noah goes out into

THE HEARTH

No one is around.

NOAH

Ham?

He looks into Ham's hut. Empty. Noah moves onto the

ROOF OF THE ARK

Shem directs The Watchers. The Ark is nearly finished. Up above, the clouds are gray and stormy.

SHEM

We are close, father. Very close.

Noah looks at the clouds. He takes the hammer from Shem.

NOAH

Ham is not on the Ark. I need you to go find him and bring him back.

Shem grabs three Watchers. They head towards the woods.

Noah looks down at Shem's work. He starts to hammer.

CUT TO:

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Ham stares down at the hordes. He looks back in the direction he came from. He makes a decision and heads into the mass of humanity.

CUT TO:

THE FOREST

Shem sees no one. He looks both ways unsure where to go.

SHEM

Tubal take the west. Magog, go east. Tiras and I will work our way all the way up towards Grandfather's mountain.

The Watchers nod. Tubal and Magog split off. Shem continues with Tiras.

CUT TO:

METHUSALEH'S CAVE

Methusaleh meditates, his eyes shut. His straight face hints at a smile.

A sound approaches. He opens his eyes, sees Naameh feeling in the darkness.

METHUSALEH

Naameh.

NAAMEH

(still blind)

Grandfather? Forgive me. I am sorry I have disturbed--

METHUSALEH

Quiet now. Come in. Sit with me.

Naameh follows his voice. Slowly the darkness gives way. She sits before him.

METHUSALEH

My granddaughter. You are as beautiful as Noah says.

She blushes.

METHUSALEH

The beauty of a mother who comes to plea for her sons. Pleas their father will not hear?

NAAMEH

There is no moving him! He has come to believe the death of man is just.

METHUSALEH

But it *is* just.

NAAMEH

It is?

METHUSALEH

We have destroyed this world. So we ourselves will be destroyed. Justice.

NAAMEH

And there is no escaping it?

METHUSALEH

The Creator reaches down to us with two hands. In his left - a sword that shears away wickedness. That is justice. But in his right - a canopy. It shelters us from judgement and creates a space for grace. That is mercy. Which the Creator intends for us now - that is a mystery.

NAAMEH

So why won't Noah strive for
mercy?

METHUSALEH

The visions came to Noah. The
choice is his.

NAAMEH

Can you do nothing?

Methusaleh thinks. A pause.

METHUSALEH

I could try. But it would cause
pain. Possibly tragedy. Do you
wish to take that chance?

Methusaleh stares into Naameh's eyes. She nods.

IN:

THE FOREST

Ila on all fours collects herbs into a satchel.

She hears something flapping. A pure white Dove
struggles to take flight with one dislocated wing.

Ila scampers over. She gently picks it up.

ILA

Ah. There you are.

With a tender knowing touch Ila palpates the shoulder
joint before popping the wing back into the socket.

She opens her hands. The bird flies off towards the Ark.

Then, she spots something special, a juicy berry.

She plucks it. It is delicious. Then out of the corner
of her eye she sees another berry impossibly bloom.

Intrigued, she stares at it. As she eats it, another one
blooms nearby.

She follows the trail of blooming fruit

DEEPER IN THE FOREST

Ila follows the stream of berries. She is scared and
curious at the same time.

She watches as the trail blooms up Mt. Ararat towards her

GRANDFATHER'S CAVE

She pauses before it. Not sure she is supposed to enter.

But the berries lead right inside.

Slowly, afraid, she enters the darkness.

CUT TO:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah hammers busily. He spots Ila's Dove fly overhead. He watches the lonely Dove TWEET. It leaps up and joins it's mate in the air.

Noah watches them circle as the dark, wet clouds churn above.

He sticks out his hands. The birds land in his palms.

He lets them touch beaks. Then, they fly into the Ark.

CUT TO:

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Shem freezes. A strange noise approaches getting louder from every direction. White noise everywhere. He runs towards a lookout point.

He arrives in time to witness the INSECTS of the world descend, igniting the massed hordes into chaos.

IN:

METHUSALEH'S CAVE

Ila hears the noise. She considers turning back but the darkness calls her.

NOW:

DEEP IN THE FOREST

The insects fly past Shem, shooting through the forest.

We rush with them through the woods, into the clearing, and stop when we see Noah

OUTSIDE THE ARK

The insects hang in the air before him. They cover the ground at his feet. Noah bows.

The bugs take his invite and rush into

THE ARK

The insects squeeze themselves into every unoccupied nook and cranny: under the legs of the crocodiles, in the ears of the elephants, between the embrace of the cockatiels.

CUT TO:

METHUSALEH'S CAVE

Ila moves through the darkness. She pushes deeper in until she sees the old man.

He smiles at her. Nervous, she starts to back away.

METHUSALEH

May I?

Ila doesn't know what he's talking about. She follows his eyes to the berries in her hand.

She holds them out and he takes one. He smells it first. Then, he pops it in his mouth rather quickly.

It sends shivers of joy through his ancient body.

METHUSALEH

Mmm. Spring fruit. Sweet and fresh. I'd almost forgotten.

She offers him another. He shakes his head no.

METHUSALEH

Sit, child.

She does.

METHUSALEH

Ten years, you've lived with my own. You love them. Shem.

She blushes.

METHUSALEH

Noah.

ILA

He saved my life. Raised me.

METHUSALEH

He did. And you are as his own daughter now. My own great-granddaughter. Ten years in the shadow of my home, yet, I have never met you, nor given you my blessing. May I?

She nods. Slowly he extends wrinkled fingers towards her.

The ancient fingertips hover quietly over her belly, over her scar, over her womb.

Suddenly, the candlelight in the room surges with brightness. But only for a moment. Was it the wind?

Ila feels something inside. She looks at the old man, afraid, unsure. She looks back down at her belly.

She gets up, terrified. She looks at Methusaleh one more time and runs.

Methusaleh exhales. It is done.

CUT TO:

THE HORDES

A refugee camp -- anywhere, anytime. Desperate people with nothing to their name. Squalor. Hunger. Fear.

The masses push and pull, surge and retreat. Mounted soldiers try to keep order. The crowd yanks down three soldiers. The army counters and the masses scatter.

As the crowd separates a familiar face -- Ham. Fighting for his balance.

A gang builds a raft. Someone caught for stealing wood. They beat him. Almost smash into Ham. Ham scurries away. A ONE-EYED WOMAN spies him. Something strange about this one she thinks.

Ham catches her one good eye and ducks behind a tent to get away. It is dark. He hears crying. Follows the tears and slips into a muddy

GRAVE

Corpses all around. Fresh, not rotting yet.

In front of him is a startled 13 year-old GIRL.

GIRL
Get away!

HAM
I'm sorry. I won't hurt--

She spins and picks up a rock, ready to kill:

GIRL
Leave!

Ham retreats. His back against the back of the grave.

He looks at her. She wipes her nose with the back of her hand. Tucks a curl behind her ear.

She is small, thin, dirty. And lovely.

HAM
I have food.

The girl is tempted for a moment. Ham reaches into his satchel. Removes some flat-bread and dried fruit.

HAM
Here.

She moves for it, but halts -- suspicious.

GIRL
What do you want?

HAM
Nothing. I will go.

He reaches forward and holds it out to her.

Fearfully she reaches out and takes it. He retreats.

The girl stuffs herself. She watches him the whole time never blinking. He starts to climb away.

GIRL
Are you alone?

HAM
Yes. You?

She motions to the bodies. Ham swallows.

GIRL
I'm Na'eltamuk.

HAM
Ham.



NA'ELTAMUK

You're kind, Ham.

She starts to cry. He walks to her and sits down.

She leans into him and sobs.

CUT TO:

THE ROOF

Noah hammers busily. The sky is dark and black to the horizon. The clouds are furious.

The air is filled with moisture. A slight breeze blows.

Suddenly, all the noise of work around him stops. He looks up. The Watchers put away their tools. They climb off the roof and sit down in a circle.

OG

Only your work left, then the Ark
is done.

Og climbs down and joins his kind facing the woods.

Noah looks down. Only one nail is missing. One last nail and the Ark is finished.

He opens his palm. The nail is in his hand.

He lines it up, lifts the hammer, and slams it in.

The blow echoes.

CUT TO:

DEEP IN THE FOREST

Shem rushes through the woods, calling for Ham.

He smashes into Ila. She smiles at him.

SHEM

Ila. Why are you--

Ila doesn't listen, just kisses him. He pushes her back.

SHEM

Ham, we need--

She doesn't stop. She thrusts her tongue into his mouth.

Shem tries to pull away. She won't slow down. She rips at his clothes, her clothes.

She takes his hand and thrusts it down. Down where it hurt.

SHEM

But it hurts--

Not anymore. Ila tells him so with a deep kiss.

Shem forgets Ham, the hordes of men, the approaching storm. The whole world is Ila now.

And Shem knew Ila.

CUT TO:

HIGH OVER THE EARTH

We fall quickly. Gravity sucks on us. Overrun now by a cold fat single drop of water.

Rain.

Rushing down towards Noah's upturned face. Smash into his waiting palm.

Splash!

Then, three more drops hit nearby.

CUT BACK TO THE:

GRAVE

Ham and Na'eltamuk finish burying her family's bodies.

Exhausted he looks at her. She smiles at him. He smiles and blushes.

A rain drop hits her face. The wetness lingers.

Ham looks up. A drop hits him in the forehead. Another drop, then another.

Ham realizes what it means. He takes Na'eltamuk's hand.

HAM

Come! Quickly now.

CUT TO:

THE FOREST

Through a screen of greenery Shem and Ila move together.

At first only the sound of their rhythmic breathing, then the fluttering of rain on leaves is everywhere.

As they settle into a climactic kiss, water collapses through the canopy and soaks them to the skin.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK

Puddles form under the Watcher's bums. Og and Samyaza sit side by side. Rain water pours down their faces.

SAMYAZA

Creator's tears.

BACK WITH:

THE HORDES

Ham pulls Na'eltamuk into the surging masses. The rain has set-off hysteria. The army shoots projectiles blindly into the maddened crowd.

Ham spots Akkad through the madness.

HAM

We must get to my father!

They scream to be heard over the rain and crowd.

NA'ELTAMUK

No, there are soldiers that way.
We should head towards safety, to
the mountain.

HAM

There is only one safe place! The
great ship. Father built it!

Ham catches himself. He spoke too loud.

NA'ELTAMUK

The Ark?

He covers her mouth. But it is too late.

ONE-EYED WOMAN

I was right. It's one of them!

She hits the WRINKLED MAN by her side.

ONE-EYED WOMAN

The son! The son of Noah!

Her words echo through the crowd.

REFUGEE 1
Son of Noah?

REFUGEE 2
Noah's son? Where?!

REFUGEE 3
There!

REFUGEE 1
There he is!

And so on. The crowd surges towards Ham and Na'eltamuk.

CUT TO:

THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

Shem and Ila burst out of the woods, running for the Ark.

Naameh spots them through the thick sheets of rain.

NAAMEH

Shem! Ila!

Noah rushes past her, out into the rain.

SHEM

Father!

NOAH

Where is your brother!?

Shem does not know.

CUT TO:

THE HORDES

Mayhem reigns.

Knee deep in mud and soaked to the bone, Ham and Na'eltamuk run from the crowd.

But they are surrounded. Hands claw for them.

REFUGEE 4

Ransom them!

Ham hugs Na'eltamuk. The surging crowd threatens to crush them. The girl screams out in agony and fear.

As the end nears, Ham closes his eyes to stop the pain. But then, the crowd breaks apart. Ham looks up.

Akkad smashes his mount through the hordes and grabs Ham.

The crowd holds onto Na'eltamuk. Ham fights to get to her, but Akkad rides away.

HAM

No. No! Let me go! GO BACK!

The great warrior sees the boy's tears, has mercy.

AKKAD

Circle about! Get the girl!

Akkad leads a charge back into the masses, his beast and weapons chewing a line through the crowd.

NA'ELTAMUK (O.S.)

HAM!

Ham spots Na'eltamuk.

HAM

There! There!

Akkad zeroes in on her. He reaches down and yanks her out of the crowd and into Ham's arms.

The hordes surge against Akkad's beast. The creature cries out and smashes onto the ground, its riders thrown into the crowd.

The mass surges after Ham. Akkad tries to fight back but there's too many. His men struggle for their own lives.

Ham holds Na'eltamuk tight as the hordes descend.

HAM

I'm sorry.

Lighting flashes, blinding everyone.

A beat. The rain slows down. Everything slows down.

The hordes turn as something huge bears down and smashes them apart. It is Og, Noah riding on his shoulders.

Ten Watchers back them up. Noah sees Ham, screams to the Watcher Magog:

NOAH

Take him home!

The crowd looks up at Og and Noah towering above them.

REFUGEE 5

It's him.

REFUGEE 6

Great mage.

REFUGEE 7

Noah!

REFUGEE 5

Noah!

Someone kneels, bowing towards Noah. The rest of the masses follow suit. They cry and beg for mercy.

As Magog grabs Ham the boy clutches Na'eltamuk tight. Noah, distracted by the crowd, does not see the girl.

Magog and three Watchers rush Ham and Na'elmatuk away.

Akkad yanks one of his men off a mount. He leaps onto the beast, trots through the bowing crowd.

AKKAD

(to Noah)

Quickly. Now's our chance.

Noah throws Akkad a hard stare, then shouts down at the masses prostrated before him.

NOAH

You had your warnings! You heard the Creator's anger! You ignored them! No one will be saved. Not one of you.

Noah points at Akkad.

NOAH

He was warned! And he did nothing. Now - it is too late!

AKKAD

Scoundrel!

NOAH

Now justice shall reign!

Part of the crowd begs for mercy as Og and the other Watcher's retreat. Another part turns angrily to Akkad.

Akkad rears his beast onto its hind legs.

AKKAD

Fools! Attack me and let him get away? We have only now! We can sit here and kill each other! OR WE CAN TAKE THE ARK!

CUT TO:

THE FOREST

Noah holds on tight to Og. As the Watchers sprint through the forest, they hear the hordes let out a blood thirsty WAR CRY. Og speeds up. The hordes are coming.

CUT TO:

ENTRANCE TO THE ARK

Naameh stands just inside the Ark. She scans the tree line, waiting. The rest of the family -- Shem, Ila and Japheth -- by her side.

Magog appears and rushes his two passengers to the Ark.

Naameh hugs Ham. She notices Na'eltamuk standing next to him. The girl stares at the hold filled with animals.

HAM

This is Na'eltamuk. She will be my wife.

Naameh smiles widely.

NAAMEH

Thank you, grandfather!

Naameh grabs the girl, hugs her.

NOAH (O.S.)

Away from her!

Noah stands outside in the rain.

He boards the Ark, grabs the girl out of his wife's arms, and tosses her out of the Ark.

Ham reaches out to save her but all he gets is a piece of shirt. Na'eltamuk lands in the mud.

Instantly, a Watcher picks her up and carries her off towards the forest.

Ham rushes after her. But Noah grabs him. He lifts him up by both arms and stares into his eyes.

NOAH

She will not come on the Ark.
Join her and die with her. Your
choice. In or out!?

NAAMEH

Noah no!

HAM

Please father!

Noah swings back - about to throw Ham outside. Ham watches the girl disappear in the woods.

The Watchers lift up the Ark door, ready to seal it shut.

NOAH

In or out!

Ham bows his head. In.

Noah nods to the Watchers. They seal the Ark.

Noah releases Ham to sob in his mother's arms and then climbs up and out onto

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah exits a hatchway and looks down into the clearing. The Watchers stand in the thigh-deep water. They are fanned out in a great circle surrounding the Ark.

Akkad bursts into the clearing. He meets Noah's gaze.

Then the army rushes in. And the hordes behind them. 10,000 souls rushing for the safety of the ship.

The Watchers meet the charge, a different weapon in each of their six arms. It is an epic battle of man versus giant.

The Watcher Tabul grabs two soldiers. He uses them to smash other attackers away. When the soldiers disintegrate, Tabul uses his mighty fists, squashing his opponents like a man splattering mice.

The hordes overwhelm the Watcher Magog. They pull him to his giant knees and blind him. But he keeps swinging and killing until a few soldiers fire arrows into his throat.

Magog falls down on his back into the water dead.

The air around him bends. A deafening CRACKLE sounds as a single bolt of lightning strikes Magog's body.

The bolt hangs there like a rope of light connecting earth to heavens. And inside the bolt, ascending through the light, Noah can almost see The Watcher writ in flame, a huge set of wings unfolding.

And then the bolt is gone. And so is Magog's body.

The Watchers witness Magog's redemption. Samyaza cries out an unearthly roar of victory. The other Watchers join in. It stuns the hordes.

Samyaza and the others attack with abandon, knowing their redemption is secure. The masses are pushed back.

CUT TO:

INSIDE THE ARK

Naameh tries to comfort Ham.

NAAMEH

I am so sorry.

HAM

She didn't do anything. She was good!

NAAMEH

I know.

HAM

(snaps)

How would you know? You know nothing.

NAAMEH

If Grandfather chose her, then...

HAM

I chose her. I found her. I picked her.

Ham runs off. Naameh is confused. Ila watches it all.

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE THE ARK

The tide of the battle has changed again. Too many humans, too few giants.

Each time a Watcher falls a lightning bolt reclaims its soul. The surviving Watchers slowly retreat keeping the circle tight.

A large gang jumps onto Samyaza. He takes a few of them with him, but a man drives a stake into his heart.

He looks up to the heavens and whispers:

SAMYAZA

My Creator, have mercy on me.

Og watches the bolt of lightning escort Samyaza home.

A large group of men break through the opening in the Watcher's ranks. They reach the scaffolding still attached to the Ark and start to climb.

On the roof, Noah grips his axe tight. Ready to fight.

Og rushes to help. He scampers up the scaffolding, tossing as many humans as he can back down.

ON THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Og and Noah defend the ship, slicing all enemies down. They push the scaffolding back, dumping climbing men back into the pit of humanity.

For a moment the deck is clear. The wind is violent.

The clouds as black as night. The rain hurts.

Noah and Og stand side by side. They watch the last Watchers fall and the masses surge forward.

OG

My end is near. Watchers gave man all our gifts. All but one. The gift of forgetfulness.

Og hands Noah a small wooden box.

NOAH

Thank you, Og.

OG

I thank you Noah, for helping us go home.

Then the great giant leaps off the Ark into the hordes.

He kills many men. Until Akkad emerges from the masses. Bloody, on foot, limping, but alive.

Akkad slings a rock at Og's head. The projectile slams home and knocks the giant to his knees.

Akkad leaps onto Og's back and thrusts a great sword into the base of the giant's skull. Akkad looks up at Noah as he pulls the sword out.

The air bends. Lightning CRACKS and connects with Og's falling corpse. Akkad is thrown.

Noah watches Og's soul drift up to heaven. The last Watcher is gone and nothing protects the Ark.

SMASH TO:

SPACE

The planet Earth is covered in hurricanes. A half dozen giant Katrina's rage across the globe. Immense pinwheels ripping apart our world.

We fall back towards the ground through the clouds.

BACK UP ON:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

The wind picks up. Noah ties himself to the thick ropes attached to the ship.

Men climb the sides of the Ark.

The fountain that first appeared over the seed Noah planted years ago starts to bubble once again. Then, it begins to spray as a great force pushes forth.

The earth BREAKS open. Water shoots up with unimaginable pressure thousands of feet in the air.

Other cracks release other bursting geysers. Hundreds of them, maybe thousands. Soon it is hard to tell if rain is falling or shooting up.

Men get shredded as pressurized water rips them apart. But more hordes approach.

The wind nearly lifts Noah off his feet. He struggles to hold on. Planks fly off the roof of the Ark. Most men are torn from the ship but some continue to climb.

Twisters of wind and twisters of water connect cloud and ground. Men drown in droves. But still the hordes descend. Thousands of people rushing through chest high water to get to the ship.

Suddenly, the ground water sucks away. Only muddy earth. As the desperate masses rush the Ark, a two hundred foot wall of water rears up behind him.

Noah's face fills with awe.

CUT TO:

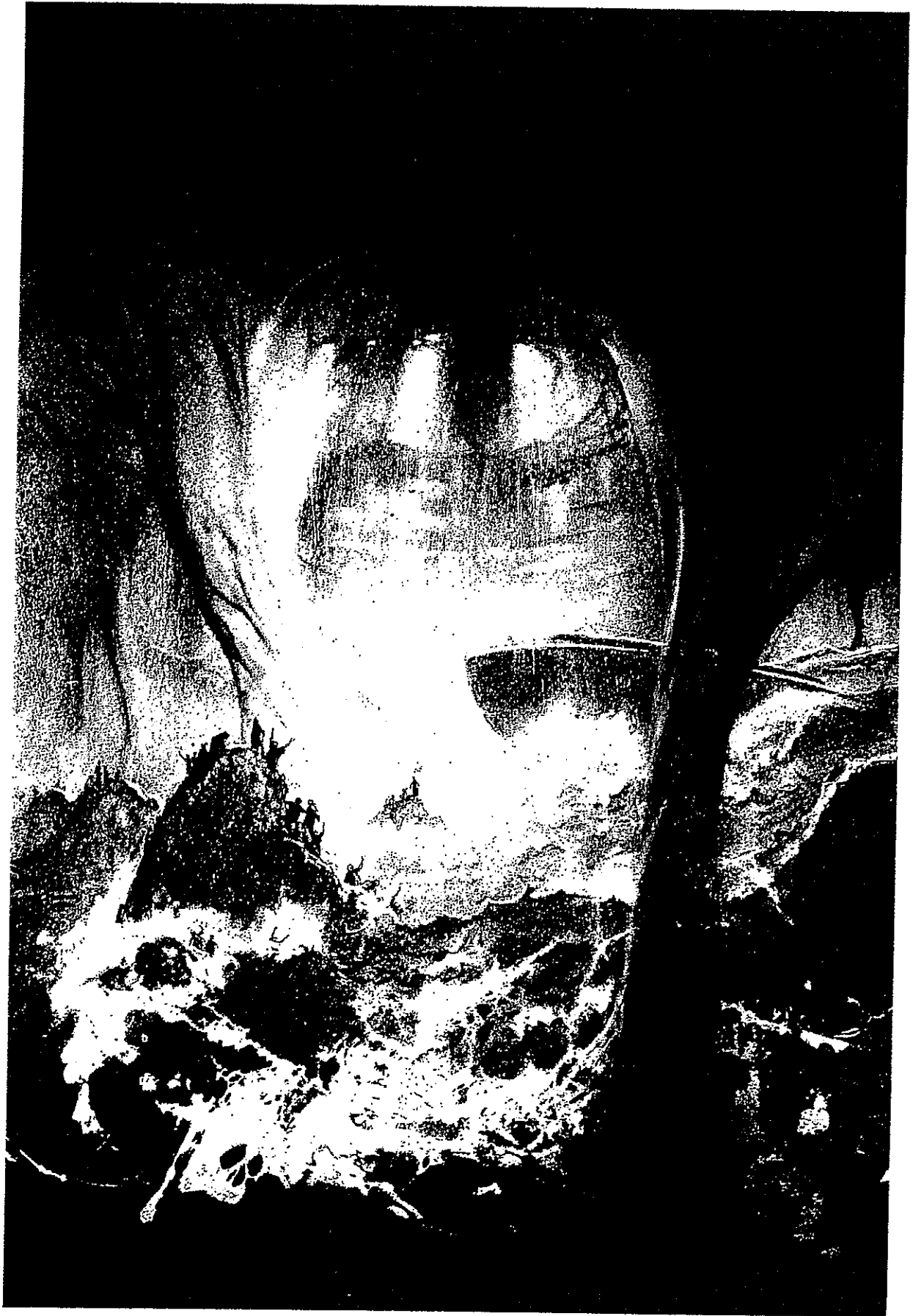
METHUSLAEH'S CAVE

Methusaleh sits quietly, eyes shut and breaths steady.

Water floods his home. He doesn't stop breathing.

Bubbles rush out, he takes water in, and death causes him no pain.

CUT BACK TO:



THE ARK

The wall of water descends on the Ark. The hordes that haven't made it to the ship are destroyed.

Their half-built ships explode into splinters.

Just as the wave is about to hit the Ark it starts to rotate into a huge whirlpool. Towering walls of water spin around the Ark.

Akkad runs a step ahead of the tsunami, an axe in each hand. He reaches the Ark just as the tidal wave hits the corner of the boat and the whole Ark starts to spin.

Round and round it rises up. Akkad leaps - burying both hatchets into the side of the Ark as the ship is lifted up with the flood waters.

Up on deck a dozen men have managed to hold on. They come at Noah from all sides. He uses his long rope tether to swing and dive across the pitching deck. One by one he cuts men down or flings them into the depths.

Until finally Noah stands alone. The ship stops spinning. It settles on the top of a great endless sea.

Horror, shock, and sadness on Noah's face as he stares at the few screaming survivors sinking amongst the thousands of floating dead.

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Ham sulks in a corner.

He jumps when something hits the wall. THWACK the tip of a metal blade juts through the wood.

Ham backs away afraid. Just outside on

THE SIDE OF THE SHIP

Akkad hangs on for dear life. He chops his way into

THE ARK

Hidden behind some supplies, Ham watches the injured king collapse unconscious in a puddle. His leg is mangled.

After a moment, Ham slips away, back to

THE HEARTH

Naameh holds onto Japheth. She spots Ham and reaches out for him. He goes to her but says nothing. Nearby, Shem holds Ila.

The hatch above opens. Everyone looks.

It is Noah.

He climbs down and looks at his family. Japheth stares at the axe in his hand. Noah looks at it.

It is covered in blood.

Noah drags himself into his

WORKSHOP

He drops the axe next to his journals and notes.

He opens Og's box. There is no ease for his pain and sadness there. Just a foot long tree branch. A clipping of sorts. It looks dead. Noah drops it as well.

He collapses against the wall. Alone, he hangs his head.

SLOW FADE TO:

BLACK

Thunderous rain. Thunderous storm. Cries of the dying.

And these words:

Genesis 7:11

And that day, were all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of heaven were opened. And rain fell upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

After a moment we return to

JAPHETH'S HUT

Japheth cuts a fifth line - day five - into the wall.

CUT TO:

THE HEARTH

Ila and Naameh cook. They hear someone cry for help. Maybe a lot of people.

Ham and Japheth run in, following the noise. Ham runs to the hatch that leads out onto the roof.

NAAMEH

Ham! Ham!

But Ham is already outside. Naameh looks out. Horrified, she turns back to Ila.

NAAMEH

(per Japheth)

Keep him away.

Ila pulls Japheth into his hut. Naameh climbs outside.

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

The screams wake Akkad from a feverish nap. His wound is bound. Some water and food are set nearby.

He looks around suspiciously. No one. He reaches for the water and devours the food.

CUT TO:

UP NEAR THE ROOF

Shem and Noah work to patch leaks in the roof. Sloshes of sea water douse them with every sway of the boat.

A desperate cry of human misery floats in from the rain.

Shem looks at his father. Noah acknowledges nothing.

Shem goes to investigate. Noah works for a beat. Then throws his tool to the ground and follows.

CUT TO:

ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah moves out onto the roof of the Ark.

The rain whistles down on Shem, Ham, and Naameh.

They stare out at mountain tops, the final remnants of land. They still tower over the Ark but not by much.

Surviving hordes cling to ice covered rock. They scream for help. The bravest swim for the Ark, but the water is too cold, too rough.

SHEM

If we cut loose the ropes, let them drag, some might find safety.

NOAH

We cannot help them.

Ham looks at his father with fury. He storms back into the ship. Naameh chases after him.

SHEM

They're not soldiers. Just people.

Noah lets some time pass.

NOAH

It is time to eat.

Shem dutifully enters. Noah pulls the roof hatch closed.

CUT TO:

THE HEARTH

The family reclines on low cushions and rugs for dinner.

But only Noah and Japheth, the youngest, eat. Everyone else stares at their father their plates untouched.

Noah finishes. He gently places his plate down.

NOAH

You stare at me as one stares at a murderer.

Noah looks up at his family.

NOAH

You question if this old body has a heart. You wonder how one could be so cruel.

Noah looks directly at Ham. Ham turns and starts to leave.

NOAH

Listen. Listen to a story. Our family's oldest story. Listen, and then you judge.

Ham stops, he comes back, sits down and waits for Noah to start.

Noah picks up the candle and blows it out. Everything is

DARK

Just the sound of the rain and waves. The occasional human cry.

Then we hear Noah's voice.

NOAH

In the beginning, there was nothing. Nothing but the silence of an infinite darkness.

And now we hear nothing. Silence. Then:

NOAH

But the breath of The Creator fluttered upon the face of the void, whispering: "Let there be light."

A pinpoint of light explodes into our eyes.

NOAH

And light was. And it was good. And light separated itself from darkness and darkness from light. And this was The First Day.

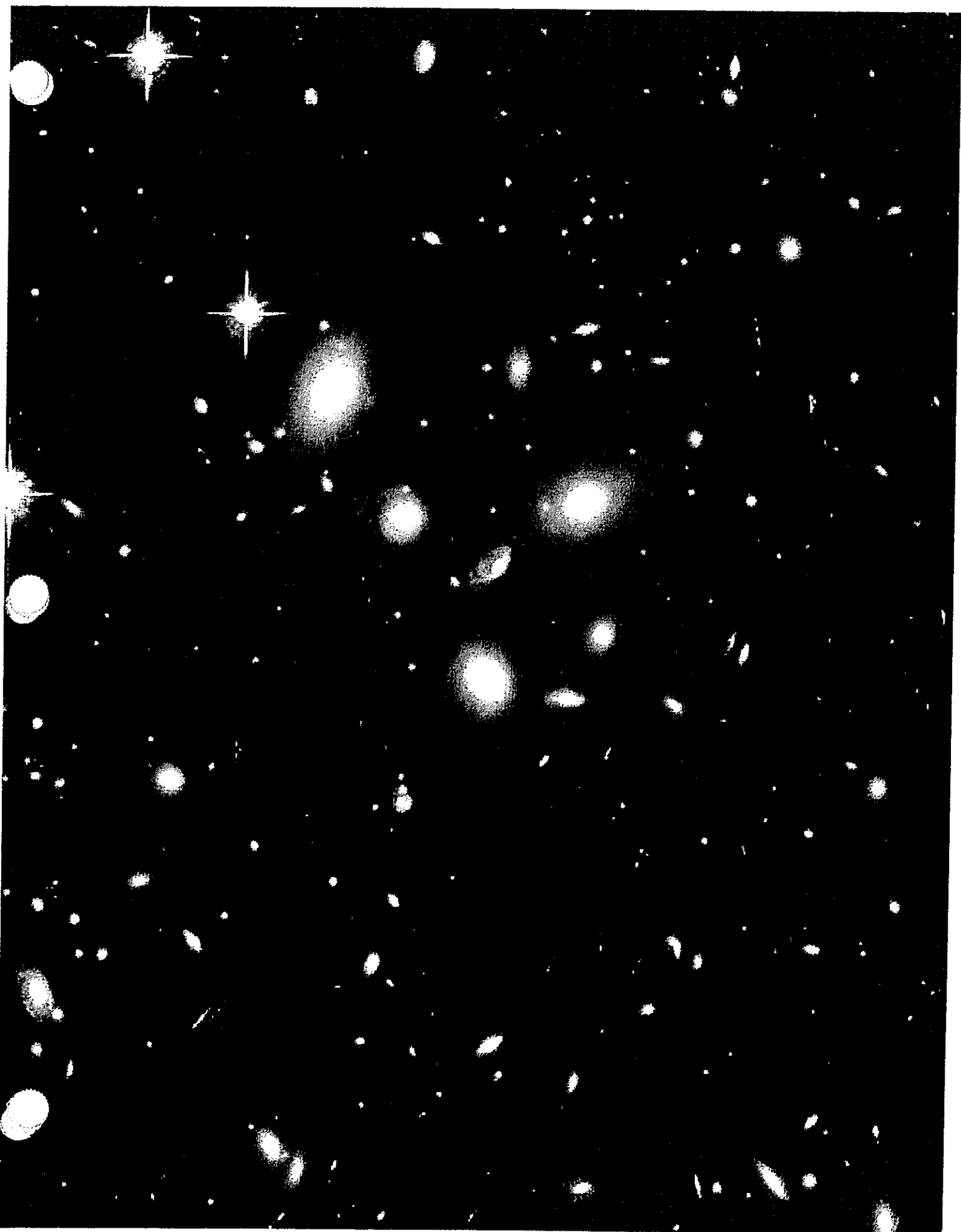
And in what will be a single shot, the white light starts to undulate as darkness emerges and they battle like oil and water.

NOAH

And the formless light took on substance and shape - and so the glittering arches of the infinite heavens were stretched across the sky. A Second Day.

The light congeals into nebulae, the nebulae into galaxies. We move forward into one galaxy, the Milky Way a trillion years ago.

We approach a collapsing cloud of dust spinning around its center. The center IGNITES into a sun. And the edges clump into planets.



We curve towards the third one, circling the spinning molten sphere until the young sun rises over the far side of our home.

NOAH

And Earth was born. Our beautiful fragile home. A great warming light nurtured it's day - a sign for seasons, for days and years.

Now, a giant asteroid smacks into the planet, knocking it onto a slanted axis. Every action creates an equal and opposite reaction, so a glob of cooling matter is knocked off of the other side forming the Moon.

NOAH

And a lesser light ruled the night. And there was Evening. And Morning. Another day.

We circle over the Earth until we break the cloud cover, soaring lower and lower over a planet that is completely covered with liquid molten rock.

NOAH

And the waters of the Earth gathered unto themselves, waters unto waters. And in their midst emerged dry land. And it was good - for the land was rich and fertile.

We see the molten Earth form a dry crust. Smaller meteorites crash into the crust and spit up steam and rain. The water collects into great oceans and seas. We continue to soar high above the ground.

NOAH

Another day passed. And the Earth put forth tender grasses, seeds, trees, fruit. All the green and growing things.

And we see forests blooming and dying and blooming again as the millennia rip by in seconds.

Now, we shoot into a pond. The so-called primordial soup of creation. In the murky water we go microscopic. We see the first proteins forming. We watch them dancing around each other banging into each other, until two of them connect -- a key and lock. They fold into each other creating the first amino acids. The chains growing longer and more complex, a helix appears, a double helix, the birth of DNA.

And we pull back revealing a nucleus inside of a single celled PROTOZOAN, now swimming with other protozoa, hundreds of them, no maybe thousands, tens of thousands.

We follow one, eating, dividing, becoming something else, something more complex, more cells, many cells, the first multi-celled invertebrate.

NOAH

And the waters brought forth
swarms of living creatures.

Soon there are vertebrates: fish, eels, all life under the sea. We follow one creature and with each frame it morphs into a new creature, a distant descendent, evolving as time shoots by at unimaginable speeds. This evolving creature swims underwater dodging other evolving creatures. Above the surface of the water we catch glimpses of dinosaurs ruling the planet.

NOAH

The great monsters of the deep
that are no more.

We dive deep into the coral-rich waters and pass by a whale-like behemoth and alien squids from the deep sea vents. Then we begin to rise, scattering schools of gleaming fish.

NOAH

And the multitudes of fish that
still swim beneath the seas.
Soon, too, the fowls let fly upon
the face of the heavens. And it
was good.

And we burst out of the waters to see vast flocks of birds swinging across the skies.

NOAH

And there was evening. And
morning. A Fifth Day.

And we still follow our direct ancestor as it slowly crawls upon land. The first mammals, living between land and sea. We see the dinosaurs bloom and die. Birds multiply and fill the sky.

NOAH

And the Earth brought forth the
living creatures, each after its
kind. Every thing that creepeth.
And every thing that crawleth. And
every beast that makes its way
upon the Earth.

And still our ancestor evolves. Moving away from the water. Up through the chain of mammals. And soon our distant primate fore-father swings through the trees above the Earth. Some form of monkey. Still evolving.

And the forest is filled with monkeys, cats, sloths, butterflies, snakes, beetles, slugs, ants, peacocks, porcupines and other creatures beyond number. A dazzling array of species. A cornucopia of life-forms.

NOAH

And it was good. It was all good. There was light and air, soil and water. All clean and unspoiled. There were plants and fish, beast and fowl. Each one after their kind, all a part of the greater whole. All had their place and all was in balance. It was paradise. A jewel in The Creator's palm.

Beat.

NOAH

And then came Man.

And we see now the first MAN. ADAM walks the Earth. He glows with light so bright we can barely make out his appearance or his nudity. He walks through a forest:

This is

EDEN

And by his side is EVE.

NOAH

And by his side Woman. Father and mother of us all.

She too glows with light. She leaves Adam's side as she's pulled towards a strange light.

Through the woods in front of her are two trees glowing with an internal magical light.

There's the Tree of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life.

Eve is drawn to THE APPLE. She stares at it. And once again, it hangs before us from a quivering twig.

Her hand reaches up and plucks the forbidden fruit.

Behind us we hear the CRUNCH.

And as this single shot ends, all slips into darkness.

BLACK

With Noah's voice.

NOAH

They ate from the forbidden fruit.
Their innocence extinguished.

RETURN TO:

A HAND

Holds a stone. Cain kills Abel.

NOAH

Brother against brother. Man
against the Earth.

Back to

BLACK

And Noah fills the silence.

NOAH

We murdered each other. We raped
the world. The Creator has judged
us.

Noah lights a match. In

THE HEARTH

His family stares at him, listening to his tale.

NOAH

We are the last men and women to
walk the earth. Children of Adam
and Eve. Inheritors of sin. But
we will not pass it on. Shem and
Ila shall bury me and your mother.

Naameh bows her head. Tears in her eyes.

NOAH

Ham shall bury them.

Noah's voice cracks. Ham looks away, not buying it.

NOAH

Then Japheth will lay his older
brother to rest. You, Japheth,
shall be the last man.

(MORE)

NOAH (CONT'D)

Until in time, you too will return
to the dust. No more men and no
more women will ever be. The
creatures of the Earth, the world
itself, shall be safe.

Shem and Ila hold hands tightly. They understand.

NOAH

I wish no man harm. No woman.
Each death grieves my heart. But
we must weigh those lives against
all creation. No matter how
painful, we must carry this out.

Naameh reaches out to touch Noah's arm.
Japheth stares up at him with wide open eyes.

Noah looks to Ham, reaches out a hand. Ham just stares back.

NOAH

I'm sorry for her. For you. I
am...

Ham turns away, leaves the room.

NOAH

Ham!

ILA

I'll talk to him.

As Ila leaves, Naameh holds her husband tight.

NAAMEH

It was a hard thing, what you did.
All those souls. It's done now.
It's done.

And in the grip of his wife's forgiveness and
understanding Noah's body starts to shake. Months of icy
determination melting into release.

CUT TO:

HAM

Moving slowly through the

STORAGE ROOM

It is dark. Very dark. The sound of rain thunders down.

Ham spots Akkad sleeping behind some barrels. The
homemade bandage around his right thigh is drenched with
blood.

Slowly, so that Akkad will not wake, Ham lays some fresh bandages and herbs by his side.

Akkad's eyes snap open. He grabs Ham's wrist.

Ham freezes. Akkad swallows the pain in his leg.

AKKAD

Noah? He's coming for me?

HAM

He doesn't know you are here. I didn't tell him.

AKKAD

Why are you helping me?

HAM

You helped me.

Akkad nods. He releases Ham.

AKKAD

I did. And your woman.

Ham grimaces. A beat, then Akkad gets it:

AKKAD

He left her behind, didn't he?

Ham turns his face away.

AKKAD

And you are famished for justice.

Ham looks back at Akkad. Yes.

Akkad smiles slowly.

AKKAD

What's your name?

CUT TO:

BLACK

Return slowly to

OUTSIDE

The Ark teeters on a giant wave.

FADE TO:

ILA'S HUT

Shem and Ila sleep entwined.

CUT TO:

JAPHETH'S HUT

The young boy cuts another line. Day thirteen.

CUT TO:

ROOF OF THE ARK

Sleet falls instead of rain. Sheets of thin ice form on the sea. There is no land in sight.

The deck is frozen and precarious. Noah and Naameh hold onto the bracing ropes. Their breaths are short and shallow in the thin cold air.

NOAH

Why won't it stop?

NAAMEH

What do you mean?

Noah watches his breath smoke in the cold.

NOAH

The waters must have risen above the tallest mountains now. They all must be dead.

NAAMEH

All?

NOAH

So why does it still rain?

NAAMEH

Perhaps there are other boats...

NOAH

None could have survived the storm. So what is The Creator waiting for? When do the waters drain and the new world begin?

Naameh has no answer.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Shem searches the room for something.

He can't find it. He takes a breath and starts over. He lines all the tools up in a row.

CUT TO:

THE HEARTH

Shem continues to search.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Shem enters, still searching. Ila is inside, but something is wrong. She is nauseous, puking into a bowl.

SHEM

Are you all right?

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Akkad sharpens a long AWL against a honing stone.

He holds the blade up.

AKKAD

What else?

Ham takes out a few more tools out of his bag. Akkad grins.

HAM

Only for--

AKKAD

I will not harm your family, Ham. Only him. Or he will surely kill me. And he deserves it, doesn't he. For all those he left to die?

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Naameh offers Ila a glass of water. Shem holds her hand.

Noah enters. He looks into her eyes, down her throat.
He feels her pulse, kisses her forehead.

NOAH

How long have you felt sick?

ILA

Since yesterday.

Now, she is sick again. When she is done, Naameh wipes her forehead.

Noah pulls out some herbs and grinds them into her water.

NOAH

The tea will settle your stomach.
It is the motion of the waves.
Hard to get used to, but in a few
days, your mind will adjust.

Ila drinks the tea and rests back in Shem's large arms.

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Ham enters with a bag of bread and vegetables. From the doorway he sees Akkad stab a STRIPED GAZELLE in the neck. Its sleeping partner doesn't even stir.

Ham is stunned. He watches the blood pool on the ground.

HAM

What are you doing?

AKKAD

What do you mean?

He cuts out some raw meat and bites into it.

HAM

We do not eat flesh.

AKKAD

You've never eaten meat?

HAM

The Creator put the beasts in
man's care - they are precious.

AKKAD

How your father deludes you! The
Creator meant us to eat them.
Look at our teeth. No. Better,
taste. Taste and tell me it is
not meant for eating.

Akkad holds out a slice of juicy meat. Ham stares.

Akkad nods. Ham gingerly nibbles at the meat. It is delicious. A revelation.

He grabs the meat and starts to eat.

FADE TO BLACK.

Return to

JAPHETH'S HUT

Japheth marks the thirty second day. He goes back and counts the lines.

His pet lizard slips out of his hand. It scurries across the ground and out of his hut.

Japheth chases after it into

THE HEARTH

The lizard scurries away. Japheth is quick on its tail.

Naameh rushes past and almost trips over the creature.

NAAMEH

Japheth.

But the ten year-old is gone.

Naameh hurries into

ILA'S HUT

Shem plays a tune for Ila. He tries to calm her but she is still nauseous. Naameh brings her some water.

CUT TO:

ANIMAL QUARTERS

Japheth searches for his pet.

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Weapons line the fortified room. Ham carefully undresses Akkad's wound.

Almost healed. Akkad takes a few steps. It bears his weight.

AKKAD
Good enough. It is time.

HAM
You are going to do it now?

AKKAD
Not me. Us.

HAM
Us?

Ham looks at Akkad. What does he need to do?

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Naameh walks in and sees Noah sifting through bottles and vials of herbs, looking for something that might help.

NAAMEH
Two weeks now, she has been ill.

NOAH
It doesn't make sense.

Noah absently pulls out a vial. He looks at it. It will not help. He starts to put it back. He hesitates.

NOAH
Unless...

An idea. But, it can't be. But then again, maybe...

NAAMEH
What?

NOAH
Couldn't be--

Noah grabs the vial, scrambles for a few other items.

NAAMEH
What is it?

Noah doesn't answer. Driven now, he rushes out into

THE HEARTH

Naameh follows him into

ILA'S HUT

Noah pours the contents of the vial into a bowl of water.

NAAMEH

What are you doing?

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Ham and Akkad talk.

AKKAD

Your father is a strong man. I am injured. We have one advantage - surprise. Bring him here. Alone.

Akkad ducks behind a wall. He lifts up the sharpened awl.

AKKAD

One blow and it will be done.

HAM

(afraid)
I do not know--

Akkad flashes with anger.

AKKAD

Decide now, once and for all. Are you a man? If you are then you can kill.

Ham seems unsure. A lizard scurries through the room.

Ham chases after it into the

ANIMAL QUARTERS

He corners the lizard and grabs it. He heads back.

HAM

It's my brother's--

As he enters the

STORAGE ROOM

Akkad holds his hand over Japheth's mouth.

Ham drops the lizard. The pet scurries away.

HAM

Let him go.

AKKAD

He will give us away.

HAM

He won't. Let him go.

(to his brother)

Quiet, Japheth. He is a friend.

Akkad lowers his hand. But Japheth can tell something is wrong.

JAPHETH

FATHER!

Akkad covers the boys mouth. Japheth bites into him.

Akkad lifts Japheth over his head ready to crush him against the wall of The Ark.

Ham swings an awl into Akkad's bad leg drawing blood. Akkad in pain drops Japheth. Ham grabs his younger brother's hand and rushes through the

ANIMAL QUARTERS

Ham looks back in terror. No one follows.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Naameh finally gets what Noah is doing. Wide-eyed she looks at Ila, then back at Noah.

NAAMEH

It can't be.

Noah takes out a thin metal blade. He goes to Ila.

ILA

What is it?

Noah doesn't answer.

SHEM

Father?

NAAMEH

How could it be?

NOAH

(to Ila)

Give me your finger.

Ila looks to her father for an explanation. None comes. She gives him her hand. Noah pricks her finger. Blood bubbles onto her fingertip.

He drips blood into the bowl. He watches the blood drop diffuse, turning the water a pale red.

Noah and Naameh stare into the bowl waiting, anxiously.

JAPHETH (O.S.)

FATHER!

Noah turns. Japheth and Ham rush in.

JAPHETH

There is a man. He grabbed me!

NOAH

What? Who is it?

Japheth looks at Ham.

NOAH

(to Ham)

Who is it?

HAM

Akkad.

Noah's face hardens.

NOAH

Where is he?

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Shem and Noah arm themselves.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Ham toys with his scrap of Na'eltamuk's shirt. He paces, unsure what to do, then rushes out.

Ila watches her mother stare into the bowl of water and herbs.

ILA

What does it say?

NAAMEH
A minute, and we will know.

CUT TO:

ANIMAL QUARTERS

Noah and Shem march past the sleeping cargo into the

STORAGE ROOM

It is abandoned.

Shem spots a blood trail. They follow it a few feet and it stops.

A drip hits the ground. They both look up. It's coming from up above, towards the roof.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

In the test bowl, the pale red water slowly turns yellow.

Naameh cannot believe her eyes. Then she figures it out.

NAAMEH
You saw grandfather.

Ila grasps to understand.

NAAMEH
What did he do to you?

ILA
Why? Nothing.

NAAMEH
Daughter, you are not sick.
You are pregnant.

Ila's jaw drops.

ILA
(stunned)
But it is impossible.

Then she gets it. She starts to cry. Tears of joy.

CUT TO:

ROOF OF THE ARK

The deck is covered with a sheen of black ice.

Hail and sleet thunder down on the dark sea.

Shem climbs out first. Akkad is waiting. He smashes him in the head with a plank. The young man goes down.

Noah leaps onto Akkad. Akkad is ready. His dagger cuts into Noah's stomach. But, Noah's force smashes both men into the hard deck. Weapons are knocked free and slip into the sea.

Noah shoots away nursing his wound.

AKKAD

You lied to me. You cheated me. You cheated the human race. I should have killed you a long time ago.

NOAH

You were too busy leading your people astray.

AKKAD

(sarcastic)

You are a shining example of paternal leadership.

(firm)

Your own son hates you and wishes to betray you.

Noah's eyes tighten. He reaches for Akkad's bison-horn medallion and rips it from his neck.

Akkad leaps and tackles Noah. The horn slips from his hand. The enemies wrestle on the icy deck.

A brutal fight to the finish.

At the edge of the roof, Akkad breaks free. He kicks Noah in the face. Noah slips off the side of the ship.

But he grabs the slippery ledge.

He hangs for dear life as the ice cold sea laps at his feet.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Naameh dumps the yellow liquid out the side of the Ark.

ILA
But it is his grandchild.

NAAMEH
You've heard his beliefs. You
know his conviction. His
stubbornness.

ILA
(getting hysterical)
Then what will we do?

NAAMEH
He must not know. We have to hide
it.

ILA
On this Ark. How? How can I hide
life inside me from father!?

NAAMEH
Start by hiding your tears.
(then)
Your blood betrayed you. So we
will give you mine.

Naameh reaches for the blade Noah used to draw blood.

CUT TO:

THE EDGE OF THE ARK'S ROOF

Akkad smirks at Noah who clings for his life.

AKKAD
Know this as you die: first I will
kill your sons. Then I will take
your wife, your daughter. I will
sire a whole new army, with an
entire world at our mercy.

Akkad lifts his leg, poised to crush Noah's fingers.

When suddenly, he stops. Blood trickles out of his
mouth.

He falls forward over Noah into the freezing sea.

UNDERWATER

His death complete.

BACK UP ON:

THE ROOF

Ham, now a man, stands over Noah with the weapon that murdered Akkad. It was the bison horn.

Noah hangs from the edge, his strength slipping.
Ham just watches.

HAM

She was innocent father. She was good.

He drops the horn into the sea and turns away.

Shem rushes up, conscious now.

SHEM

Ham, father! Help him.

Ham doesn't help. He keeps going.
Shem pulls Noah up.

Noah catches his breath as Shem notices the blood from his father's side.

SHEM

You're hurt.

Shem starts to apply pressure. Noah pushes Shem away and rushes through the rain back into the Ark.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Naameh has filled the bowl with water and herbs again. She takes the blade and cuts her own finger.

As she squeezes a drop of her blood into the bowl, Noah enters soaked and dripping.

NOAH

What are you doing?

Ila stands up. She stares at her father. A protective hand slides across her belly.

Shem enters and notices Ila's hand.

ILA

Shem

Shem comes to her.

Naameh tries to change the subject.

NAAMEH

You're hurt!

She moves to tend Noah. He pushes her away.

NOAH

It is true, isn't it?

Ila can't lie.

ILA

It's a miracle father. A blessing.

SHEM

What is going on?

NOAH

NOOOOO!

Noah smashes the bowl and storms out.

Ila smiles through her tears at Shem.

ILA

You are to be a father.

Shem is deeply shocked, worried. But as he walks towards Ila, joy bubbles up through his concern.

SHEM

It cannot be... must not be. The Creator's plan... father's work... We mustn't... we are the last. No babies.

He reaches Ila, touches her, bursts with love.

SHEM

Our baby.

CUT TO:

THE HEARTH

Noah wrecks the room. He stomps around smashing all in sight. Then he collapses to the ground and starts to cry. At first small tears. Then deep sobs.

And as he cries the world shifts. The rain starts to slow. At first we hear it: The pounding of water on wood we've heard since the flood began starts to lighten.

Then we see it out the hatch: The rain just disappears.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Shem kisses Ila's belly. Her tears slow.

And then a deafening silence as 40 days of drumming rain suddenly ceases. They rush into

THE HEARTH

Everyone crowds around the hatchway staring out at the

ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah stands in the cool dry air, staring at the horizon.

SHEM

Father?

Noah turns to look at his family. His tears are gone.

SHEM

The rains have stopped. The
Creator smiles on our child.
Won't you bless us, too?

A long beat.

NOAH

The rains have stopped because of
your child, yes. And if it is a
boy it shall receive my blessing.
He will take Japheth's place, the
last man.

Noah pushes past them into the Ark. He pauses.

NOAH

But if it is a girl, a nascent
mother, then it must die.

SHEM

Are you mad!? This is my child!

NOAH

Should you bear a girl - in the
moment of her birth I will cut her
down.

Ila screams in horror.

Noah collapses to one knee. Then, he crumples to the
ground. Quickly, everything

FADES TO BLACK.

Until

A HAND

Carries a stone. Brother kills brother. In

BLACK

Once again we hear CRIES, SHOUTS, SCREAMS of death, war,
and brutality.

The CACOPHONY becomes DISSONANCE. The DISSONANCE becomes
WHITE NOISE.

It bangs

NOAH

Into consciousness for a moment. Then, he slides back
into the throes of his own personal fever.

NOAH

No. Please, no.

Naameh tends him. But even she can't stop him from

FADING INTO BLACKNESS.

And these words emerge:

Genesis 7.17

**And the waters prevailed so mightily upon the Earth that
all the high mountains under the whole heaven were
covered. All in whose nostrils was the breath of life
had died. Only Noah remained alive, and they that were
with him in the Ark.**

Return to

NOAH'S HUT

Slowly he wakes. Naameh notices. She comes to him.

NAAMEH

There you are. Feeling better.

Noah is. Then he remembers Ila. He sits up quickly.

Ila.
NOAH

NAAMEH
She is fine. Upset by what you
said. I told her it was the
fever.

Noah looks at his wife. He is completely serious.

NOAH
You know it was not.

Naameh's face falls. She dared hope, but she knew.

NAAMEH
Could you really do this thing?

NOAH
Enough!! I do what I must!

Noah gets up and leaves Naameh to stare in shock.

In the

HEARTH

Shem watches Noah storm to his workshop.

Naameh scurries into Ila's hut. Shem follows.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Noah holds his face against the pain of it all.

He opens Og's box. He looks at the branch inside.

He hears Ila's cries as she hears Naameh's news.

He closes the box and puts it away.

CUT TO:

ON THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Ila stares at the horizon. All is covered with sea.

Shem comes up behind her and puts an arm on her shoulder.

ILA
What will we do?

SHEM

Our father is a monster. I do not know.

Ila doesn't look at him. She just stares out.

ILA

Your hands built this Ark.

Shem nods.

ILA

Build another. For us. Us three.

Shem latches onto the idea. He starts looking around, planning. He yanks a plank up off of the Ark.

Ila just stares out. All still covered with sea.

FADE TO BLACK.

Return to

THE HEARTH

Shem builds furiously. The frame of a twenty foot boat is taking shape.

Shem looks over at Ila. She is five months pregnant. Her eyes fill him with strength.

She senses someone. Shem looks. It is Noah, watching.

His sunken eyes and protruding cheeks retreat into the darkness.

FADE TO BLACK.

Only these words:

Genesis 7.23

And the waters prevailed upon the Earth one hundred and fifty days.

FADE IN ON:

THE HEARTH

Shem sands the hull of the finished boat. Ham enters.

HAM

He will not just let you go.

SHEM

What else can we do?

Shem sees the hate in Ham's eyes. Shem shakes his head.

SHEM

No. Not that.

HAM

Not yet.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Ila is seven months pregnant. Shem massages her feet.

ILA

Let's go now. Get away from him.

SHEM

We won't last long in that boat.
If we do not find land we will
starve. We should wait 'til the
last moment, then go.

ILA

I don't know. I want to risk the
seas.

He holds her.

SHEM

Let's eat now.

They exit into

THE HEARTH

Naameh serves a meal. The family eats silently. She
takes a plate a food and walks out onto

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah sits alone. Eyes shut he thinks.

Naameh offers him the food.

NAAMEH

Eat. You need to eat.

He does not take it.

NAAMEH

You have not eaten in weeks.

NOAH

How can I?

NAAMEH

You could relent.

NOAH

It is not my choice.

NAAMEH

Grandfather said it is.

NOAH

Grandfather? He's cursed me!
Does he know the Creator's will?

NAAMEH

Do you?

Noah laughs to himself.

NAAMEH

What?

NOAH

Do I? Look. Look out at our world.

Noah points to edge of the Earth.

NAAMEH

I don't see anything.

NOAH

Exactly. And you won't until Ila gives birth. The rain stopped months ago. Yet the waters remain. Why? Because He must be sure the new world will be as He intends. That I will do what I must do. If you love them do not let them go. There is no land. They will die out there.

Noah tosses his plate of food into the sea.

NAAMEH

How can you be sure?

NOAH

Sure?!

Noah looks up to the sky. He gets an idea.

NOAH

I will show you.

Noah storms into

THE HEARTH

The family still eats. Noah stops to look at his kin.

NOAH

Japheth. Come, help me.

Japheth looks at his father, at Ila, at Ham. Ham shrugs.

Noah slips into the darkness. Japheth follows.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Japheth helps Noah chop and mix herbs on his work table.

Noah collects the mixture in a bowl.

CUT TO:

ANIMAL QUARTERS

Noah walks swiftly through the great hall of sleeping creatures. Japheth behind him.

Noah climbs up until he finds the sleeping ravens. He peels the male RAVEN from its mate.

It sleeps in his arms as he pets it.

With a stone flint he shoots a spark onto the herbal mix. It smokes as it burns. Noah blows a thin stream of smoke into the Raven's nostrils.

Slowly the Raven wakes. The Raven SQUAWKS.

Noah carries it back to

THE HEARTH

His family looks at them. The Raven SQUAWKS again.

HAM

What do you want?

NOAH

(explains)

The raven. Perhaps The Creator's most intelligent winged creature. And keen eyesight to match. If there is land out there - he will find it.

Ila and Shem look at each other.

Noah walks out. Everyone but Ham follows him out onto

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah raises the bird out on an outstretched hand. He shoots it off into the air. The Raven takes flight.

It circles the Ark once and then flaps off to a distant horizon.

FADE TO BLACK.

Return to

THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA

Looking back at the Ark. No rain. No wind. No waves.

Air, sea and sky all gray and still and flat.

Rising up off the water, the Raven shoots past us returning home.

ON THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Japheth waits. He keeps himself busy with a stick.

He senses something, looks up. The Raven approaches.

JAPHETH

THE RAVEN! IT'S COME BACK!

Everyone rushes out. Ila carries a huge weight and is extremely tired.

Noah walks to the edge of the roof and stretches out his hand. The Raven lands on his forearm. It blinks.

He examines its feet.

NOAH

No mud. No dirt. Nothing.
 (to Naameh)
 The Creator waits for the birth.

The Raven flaps down to the roof. Noah goes inside.

Ila cries on Shem's shoulder.

SHEM

Shh now. Courage. When it is our
 child's time, we will be away from
 here.

ILA

Away? There's nowhere for us to
 go.

SHEM

We will find a way. I promise.

ILA

(tearful, hopeful,
 desperate)
 Maybe it will be a boy?

SHEM

Maybe. But Noah shall never know.

After a moment.

SHEM

Come, inside now.

Shem leads her inside. She can't stop crying.

Japheth watches them go. He looks over at the Raven. He
 bends to pick it up but the big black bird snaps at him.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Japheth sneaks inside. He picks up the bowl of herbs and
 a flint stone and heads into the

ANIMAL QUARTERS

He looks at the different birds. So many to choose from.

Then he spots the doves. Our DOVE.

He sparks the incense. He blows smoke toward the Dove.

Slowly, the bird awakes. It ruffles it's feathers.

CUT TO:

ILA'S HUT

Ila rests, still crying.

JAPHETH (O.S.)

Sister?

ILA

Japheth.

The young boy enters with the Dove.

ILA

My dove? You woke it.

JAPHETH

Yes.

ILA

Father will be angry.

JAPHETH

Angrier than he already is?

Ila accepts this.

JAPHETH

The raven is smart, maybe too smart.

ILA

What do you mean?

JAPHETH

Maybe he sees all the water and gives up. The dove is more simple. His eyes are not as good as the raven's but he always flies home. He will never give up until he gets there. Maybe he will go further and find us land.

She doesn't hold much faith in the idea, but her brother's love have dried her tears. She hugs him.

ILA

Thank you, brother.

CUT TO:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Japheth walks out into the daylight. The Raven SQUAWKS at him. He ignores it and let's the Dove go.

The bird flies straight and true towards the setting sun.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE ARK

At night, floating on a black sea. No stars only clouds.

INSIDE

Everyone sleeps. The animals sleep. The reptiles, the birds, the mammals - everything.

Noah sleeps on the floor in his workshop.

Naameh sleeps alone on a bed made for two.

Japheth sleeps on the roof of the Ark waiting for the Dove. His lizard curled up at his side.

Ham sleeps. Shem sleeps too.

In all creation, only Ila is awake. Out in a corner of

THE HEARTH

She squats in pain. Her forehead covered with sweat.

She swallows a cry of pain. Terror lights her eyes.

In

ILA'S HUT

Shem suddenly wakes. He feels for his mate. Nothing.

He shoots up in bed and looks around.

He scurries into

THE HEARTH

In the darkness he spots her sweat stained face. He rushes to her. Ila's eyes tell him everything.

CUT TO:

HAM'S HUT

Shem covers Ham's mouth and shakes him awake. Whispers:

SHEM

It's time.

Ham nods.

CUT TO:

THE HEARTH

With pulleys the brothers hoist the raft into the sea.

The splash wakes Japheth up on the roof.

The boy looks down and sees Shem checking the small boat for leaks. Japheth scans the sky for the Dove.

ON SHEM'S BOAT

Everything seems set. Dawn arrives through the clouds. He signals silently to Ham.

Ham rushes into

ILA'S HUT

Naameh holds Ila's hand. She cools her brow with a wet cloth.

Ham and Naameh help Ila up.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Sure enough Noah is awake. His face is filled with absolute conviction.

AT THE:

EDGE OF THE HEARTH

Shem beckons Ila into the boat. Naameh starts to cry.

ILA

Fear not mother. We shall find
each other in the new world.

They hug. Shem beckons again but something catches his eye.

A tiny HERRING FISH leaps onto deck. It flaps around trying to breathe.

Shem is bewildered. He reaches to pick it up when another fish leaps on board.

CUT TO:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Japheth spots a speck on the horizon. The dove?

CUT BACK TO:

THE RAFT

Shem stares at the dying fish.

Beat.

Ten more jump on board. Then, a whole school. He panics.

SHEM

(to Ila)

Get back!

He looks over the side of the boat.

From the dark purple sea a shape rises towards him.

He leaps for the pulley ropes just as a giant ORCA smashes through the bow of the escape boat.

A pod of whales follow close behind, cresting out of the sea everywhere, reducing the raft to splinters.

Shem safely hangs on a rope. He scampers up into

THE HEARTH

Ila hugs him. He hugs back. Scared.

The whales cry out as if talking to Noah. Shem sees his father watching. His anger grows but:

JAPHETH (O.S.)

The Dove! The Dove!

From

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

They hear Japheth scream. Everyone rushes outside.

The exhausted bird fights to maintain altitude. It sinks, almost hits the water, then fights to get air.

As it gets closer a wind picks up. Ila's hair blows in the gust. The still waters of the sea are pushed into choppy foam.

The Dove is buoyed the last few yards towards the Ark. It collapses onto the deck. Japheth rushes over.

He picks up the bird. It pants, its chest heaves. He examines the feet. Clean, no mud. Nothing there.

Ila reads her young brother's body language.

ILA

Nothing.

Satisfied, Noah returns inside.

Shem picks up a long wooden pole. Ham sees the fury.

HAM

(whispers)

We do it now!

Shem descends upon Noah. Ham follows with clenched fists.

NAAMEH

Boys, NO!

Outside of

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Shem swings for the back of Noah's neck. An inch from impact, Noah is ready. He spins around, blocks the weapon, twists his son's wrist, tosses him to the ground.

With Shem's pole, he trips Ham and pins him down.

Noah plants a knee onto the center of Shem's chest.

He stares into his son's helpless eyes.

NOAH

If it is a boy, it can live. But
if it is a girl, it must die.

Noah tosses Shem aside and disappears into his workshop.

Shem tries to go in after him but Naameh and Ila hold him back.

ILA

No, Shem, no.

Just, then

UNDER THE SEA

The bottom of the ARK SCRAPES against an undersea mountaintop.

INSIDE

The jolt tosses everyone around. Ila screams as she hits the ground.

Shem rushes to her side.

ILA

What was that?

SHEM

We've run aground.

Noah leaps out of his workshop. He rushes off to check the Ark.

ILA

Oh my...

Water leaks out from between her legs.

NAAMEH

It's begun.

ILA

Mother. What's happening?

NAAMEH

Your water has broken.

The baby moves under the skin of Ila's belly.

ILA

This can't be, it's too soon.

NAAMEH

Calm down daughter. It's not too soon. It's time.

Shem springs to action. He looks to his brother.

SHEM
Help me take her down!

NAAMEH
Where?

CUT TO:

STORAGE ROOM

Akkad's old hideaway has been updated by Shem and Ham.

The room is now a substantial defense. It is stocked with supplies.

Shem and Ham carry Ila into a small

BIRTHING HUT

Naameh follows them in, surprised by what she sees.

NAAMEH
What's all this?

HAM
I knew he wouldn't let them go.

SHEM
We built it just in case.
(softly to Ila)
We will be safe here. We are
armed and no one will touch you or
our baby.

Ila lets out her first cry of labor. The boys set her down on a mattress.

Naameh cleans her hands. Then, she reaches under the blanket and into Ila. She focuses on what she feels.

NAAMEH
All right. It is time. Baby is
coming.

ILA
No, what do you mean? Please
mother. He's going to take my
baby.

SHEM
He won't take our child.

ILA
Make it stop, make it--

A huge wave of pain comes. Ila grunts. It passes.

ILA

Please mother. Please, keep it inside.

NAAMEH

It's coming, daughter. Don't think about anything else. Shem will protect us.

Naameh hands her the blanket.

NAAMEH

Bite down on this. When the pain comes, don't scream, try to bite on this.

SHEM

(confident)

She can scream. I am ready.

Shem goes outside to prepare. As another contraction arrives we

CUT TO:

THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP

Noah examines the point of impact. Water slowly sprays into the ship.

CUT TO:

BIRTHING HUT

Ila tries to bite the blanket but she can't help herself and she howls.

The whole ship hears it.

DEEP IN THE ARK

We hear her howls. The cries of childbirth echo past the sleeping animals and throughout the great ship.

AT:

THE BOTTOM OF THE SHIP

Noah hears the cries. He lowers his eyes for he knows what he may soon have to do.

CUT TO:

BIRTHING HUT

Japheth rushes in terrified by the cries. He claws at his mother wishing for comfort.

NAAMEH

Go outside son, outside.

But Japheth won't budge. Ila, between contractions now, sees Naameh's concern and Japheth's fear. She smiles at him.

ILA

Sweet Japheth. Will you help me?

JAPHETH

(through tears)

How?

ILA

Bring me your bird.

NAAMEH

Yes! Go bring your sister what she asks.

Japheth goes. A contraction hits Ila. She wrestles with the pain. Outside in the

STORAGE ROOM

Shem and Ham lower sharpened spears into a pit trap.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Noah cleans his body, hands, and feet in a basin of cold water. He puts on a fresh clean robe.

He straps a long sharp dagger to his waist.

Another of Ila's screams slices through the ship.

Noah kneels on the ground and clasps his hands. He prays silently. Finally, we can just make out the words:

NOAH

Please, please, let it be a boy.

BACK IN THE:

BIRTHING HUT

Japheth returns with the Dove. Ila, between contractions, looks up at her baby brother.

ILA

Japheth, sweet brother. Take her to the roof and let her fly for home. One more time. Beg her to help. And wait for her. Don't leave. You've got to stay up there and watch for her to return. Can you do that for me? I know you can.

Japheth swells with pride.

We follow Japheth through the Ark as he rushes past the

OUTSIDE OF NOAH'S WORKSHOP

He almost smashes into his father. Japheth ignores him.

Noah watches his son go. Noah carries a huge basket filled with mixed herbs down into the bowels of the ship.

ON:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

The gray clouds glow with sun. Japheth rushes outside with the Dove.

JAPHETH

Go now. Go find a safe place for my sister.

He releases the bird into the sky. The Dove circles high above the Ark.

Then, it flies off straight as an arrow.

CUT TO:

THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA

The Ark floats in the distance. We rise off of the water and watch the Dove shoot past.

Ila's cries bring us back to the

NAAMEH

You can. You will. When you feel
you have to push. You push.

SHEM

I love you.

ILA

I love you.

And then it happens. Ila feels the need to push. She
bears down.

NAAMEH

(to Shem)

Go on now. He will be coming.

Shem steps out into the

STORAGE ROOM

And stands ready by the main door. In his hiding place,
Ham closes his eyes and tightens his grip.

BACK IN THE:

BIRTHING HUT

Naameh can't help but laugh.

NAAMEH

I can feel it. I can feel the
head. It's coming out.

Ila is rocked by a contraction.

NAAMEH

Push!

And Ila does.

IN THE:

STORAGE ROOM

Shem waits, Ila's cries in the background.

Then he spots his father. Noah stands silently on the
other side of the wall of spears.

NOAH

Son. Let me pass.

SHEM

I will not.

NOAH

I do not wish to harm you.

SHEM

It is my baby!

NOAH

It threatens every creature on
this boat.

SHEM

It? You mean your grandchild? My
first born? Just leave us be!

Noah almost grins.

And then we hear a newborn CRY!

Noah gets extremely serious. He shuts his eyes. A
moment of reflection. Then, he looks at his son.

NOAH

Please. You cannot stop us.

Shem excited by the sound of fatherhood responds by
unleashing a sword.

SHEM

(unsure)

Us?

But Noah has retreated into the darkness of the Ark.

CUT TO:

BIRTHING HUT

Naameh smiles broadly as she hands the newborn baby to
her mother. Ila sobs.

BACK IN THE:

STORAGE ROOM

Shem watches the hallway, not sure where Noah went.

He nervously screams into the lean-to.

SHEM

Is it a boy? What is it?

INSIDE THE:

BIRTHING HUT

Ila looks up at Naameh - what is it?

NAAMEH

(to Ila)
I didn't look.

And Naameh peeks beneath the blanket keeping the baby warm. We do not see the sex, but by the look on Naameh's face the news is not good.

ILA

(gasps)
Oh no.

Naameh tries to lie the best she can.

NAAMEH

(shouting to Shem)
It's a boy!

SHEM'S FORT

Shem can barely believe his ears.

SHEM

A boy? A boy?!

NAAMEH (O.S.)

Yes a boy!

Shem sees Noah approaching down the hall.

SHEM

It is a boy. Stop. It is a boy.

But Noah strides forward. And now, Shem hears the sounds of the Ark awakening behind him.

CUT TO:

ANIMAL QUARTERS

We watch the creatures rise from their slumber. They stumble to their hooves, their paws, their flippers.

Eyes open, they stretch and yawn and let out their morning cries.

BACK UP IN:

THE STORAGE ROOM

Noah pushes forward.

Ham watches from his hiding place.

As Noah passes, Ham rises up, murderous AWL in hand. The blade rushes down towards the back of Noah's head.

This is not about stopping Noah. Not about saving the baby. This is about hatred and revenge.

HAM

AHHHHHH!

But from the darkness of the Ark something comes.

Two hulking three-horned RHINOS charge Ham. One tosses Ham into a wall. He collapses out cold.

The Rhinos charge on. They smash apart Shem's wall of spears but the trap surprises them. They tumble down into the pit of spikes. Their species forever extinct.

Just on the tail of the rhinos is a myriad of species two by two. They storm the fortress.

The BIRDS and BATS and flying INSECTS reach Shem first. He swings at them but they teem about, confusing and disorienting him.

Shem's swinging traps impale one of two giant predator CATS. The other one leaps onto Shem's chest.

Shem pulls out a new blade and stabs the cat in its lungs. He tosses the carcass aside.

Noah moves forward surrounded by the swarm of creatures attacking Shem.

SHEM

IT'S A BOY! A BOY!!! STOP!

Noah keeps coming. Shem pulls a trigger unleashing darts and arrows at Noah. The flying creatures sacrifice themselves. Many die. Noah keeps walking.

Two SPOTTED WOLVES charge. Shem retreats into

THE BIRTHING HUT

And he sees his beautiful child for the first time. But something is wrong. Ila and Naameh are both crying.

ILA
Isn't she beautiful?

SHEM
She?

For a moment he chokes up.

As he pulls himself together and hoists another weapon the hut is yanked apart.

Two giant RIDGE-BACKED PRIMATES rip the hut to pieces. The morning glow from outside shines on Ila and the child.

The primates descend on Shem and push him to the ground.

The wolves growl at and bite Shem until all he can do is crawl up into a defensive ball in the corner.

Noah stops before Ila. Naameh pounds on his chest.

NAAMEH
It's a boy for mercy's sake. A BOY!

Noah lowers his sobbing wife to the floor. Two giant FANGED HOGS pin her gently to the ground.

And now there's just Noah and Ila.

Ila shivers in the dawn. The pain of childbirth still rattles her inner core. She holds the baby tight.

NOAH
Is it a girl?

Ila can't lie. She tears up.

ILA
Please father.

NOAH
I am sorry.

The snakes on board hiss in. They grab her limbs and tighten spreading her down to the ground.

Shem tries to do something but he is beaten back by the living breathing animals wandering everywhere.

Ila is pinned.

ILA
No. No!

Noah takes the child. His grandchild. He undresses her. It is a girl. Tears in his eyes. He swallows them down.

NOAH

I am sorry daughter. I am so
sorry.

He turns his back to Ila. He takes a deep breath.

ILA

I beg you please, I beg you--

He pulls out his dagger.

ILA

Ple-- Ahhhh!

Ila screams. Noah lifts the blade, then stops.
Something is wrong. Ila cries from pain, not anguish.

He looks back at her.

NOAH

What?

Naameh realizes first.

NAAMEH

Another. A twin! A twin!

Noah looks at the baby in his arm. He looks at the
blade. He does not know what to do. The snakes let her
loose. Noah moves towards Ila.

ILA

Get away from me! You monster!
Away!

She tries to back away. A wall of pain hits Ila, she
nearly passes out.

NAAMEH

Let me help her.

Noah looks at the pigs. They release Naameh.

She crawls to Ila.

NOAH

A boy. Please a grandson.

NAAMEH

It's coming.

And Ila pushes hard. Shem cries.

NOAH

Please. Please. Please.

Naameh pulls the baby out. And she starts to sob. Noah looks at Naameh, he understands.

But he forces the tears down. He reaches down and takes the second newborn child. He holds both babies in one arm. They wail relentlessly. Their screams are piercing.

He picks them up and walks out of the room.

Ila reaches for him, but she is exhausted, too weak to stand.

CUT TO:

THE ROOF OF THE ARK

Noah walks to the edge of the Ark and stares out at the sea. The clouds are dark and gently churning.

NOAH

Forgive me.

He collects himself and pulls out the blade. The knife hesitates and vibrates in the air.

The babies scream and scream and scream.

ILA (O.S.)

(quietly and gently)

Father.

He turns and sees his daughter. She stands behind him. Weak but firm.

NOAH

Please child. Go. You don't need to see this.

Ila drags herself forward, step by step.

NOAH

(gently)

You cannot stop me.

Ila is close now. She looks at the screaming wailing children in her father's arms.

ILA

They're crying. Don't let them die crying. Please. I can't stop you. I won't. Just- let me hold them? Calm them for a moment. Please? Let them die calm?

Noah looks at Ila. She is telling the truth. The children wail uncontrollably.

ILA

Let them know a moment of peace.

Noah nods. Ila steps forward and takes the children. She holds the twins tightly.

Shem and Naameh stumble onto deck and stare. With the babies in her arms, Ila drops to her knees. She stares down at them, rocking slowly back and forth. Laughing, crying.

And then Ila starts to hum.

Her voice rises up from a place of comfort so deep she doesn't know its source. And she starts to sing:

ILA

*Sleep my child.
Surrender to the wild.
Find your breath.
Find your peace.
Sleep my child.
Surrender to the wild.
Find your breath.
Find your peace...*

Noah recognizes the song. It is the same tune he sang to his children. The same tune he sang to Ila as a little girl when her belly was bleeding and full of fear.

The song calmed Ila then and it calms her daughters now. She rocks and sings. The infants whimper and soon they fall silent. Calm and at peace they stare up at their mother.

Tears stream down her face. Ila holds out her arms to Noah. She offers up the quiet babies to his dagger.

ILA

Do it now. Do it quickly.

Noah looks down at his daughter kneeling before him, offering her children, willing to hold them and watch them die in her arms rather than let them suffer.

She looks up at Noah with a pleading face. A tear in her eye refracts sunlight. A rainbow in a drop of salty water as it beads and falls.

Noah turns and looks at the skies. His eyes narrow from the brightness. The clouds have finally separated and blue sky pokes through.

He watches as a rainbow emerges out from this air.

Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet stretch down from the heavens into the shining sea.

The knife drops. It clangs against the floor of the Ark.
Ila looks up. She sees her broken father. Crying.

NOAH

(to himself, to the Creator)
I can't. I can't do it. I am
sorry. I am so sorry.

Ila hugs the babies against her bosom. Shem holds tight
onto his woman and children.

Naameh reaches out for Noah, but he stumbles off.

And then Japheth comes running.

JAPHETH

There! There! There she is!

Everyone looks.

It is the Dove. He flies straight and strong.

Japheth holds out his hand.

The Dove lands in his palm. In its beak an olive twig,
green leaves white flowers.

JAPHETH

Land! He found it!

Ila smiles at her younger brother.

ILA

Yes. He found it.

Behind her, entering

THE DARK ARK

Goes Noah. He heads into the belly of the ship.

His family celebrates behind him.

CUT TO:

NOAH'S WORKSHOP

Noah closes the door in his workshop. Defeated. He sits
heavily.

He cries out in anguish and punches the air.

Og's box falls by itself to the floor. It smashes open and the old gnarled branch rolls to Noah's feet.

The branch has new life. Fresh green leaves have sprouted from the old grey wood.

SLOW FADE TO:

FORESTED MOUNTAIN

The same gnarled branch. Now the root of a huge grape vine teeming with fruit. Butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds buzz around it.

A foot steps in front.

It is Ham's foot.

Ham wears a big pack. It looks like he is heading off on a long trip.

He looks around him. There is a grape arbor. And a winepress. Some empty jugs.

He holds a knife in his hand.

CUT TO:

EDEN

Or what Eden must have been like in its first moments of creation.

The waters have retreated. The Ark leans against a mountain top decaying. The sides of the Ark have been ripped down.

Animals roam freely. Birds fill the sky.

A new forest has taken seed. The buds of an approaching Spring burst forth boldly from young trees.

A small camp around a small fire.

Ila and Shem hold the young twins. They are wrapped warm from the dissipating cold. Japheth is fascinated with the girls.

Naameh is busy working, cooking. She looks up concerned.

NAAMEH

Ham?

CUT TO:

FORESTED MOUNTAIN

Ham looks down in the grass at his father. Noah is drunk and naked, surrounded by empty jugs.

He shivers, wakes.

He spots his middle son. He reaches out for him.

NOAH

Ham?

Ham looks down at his father, with anger and bitterness. He grips the knife in his hand.

Then Noah passes out again. A sad and drunken man.

Ham's grip on the knife loosens. He puts it away.

He drops something on Noah's naked chest.

It is the scrap of cloth from Na'elmatuk's shirt.

Ham looks around again. He shoulders his pack and walks off. He isn't coming back.

CUT TO:

THE SMALL CAMP

Shem and Naameh talk.

NAAMEH

Better check up there.

SHEM

With father? It's the last place Ham would go.

NAAMEH

Still. Better look.

ILA

I will go.

Shem looks surprised.

ILA

It's time I went. Saw him.

Shem nods. He understands.

CUT TO:

FORESTED MOUNTAIN

Noah is awake now. Sitting up. His naked back to us.
Ila approaches. He senses her but does not look.
She covers him with a blanket. She pulls it around him.
He looks at her. Doesn't know what to say.

ILA

They're looking for Ham.

Noah shows her the scrap. She knows what it means.

NOAH

Gone.

Silence for awhile.

NOAH

Ila, I...

ILA

There is no need to say anything.
I understand.

NOAH

I have failed Him. All this. I
was too weak to save it.

ILA

Is that what He tells you?

NOAH

He does not speak to me anymore.

Silence for a long beat, as father and daughter sit side
by side.

ILA

They are beautiful girls. They'd
like to know their grandfather.
I'd like them to.

NOAH

After what I tried to do?

ILA

Yes. I think you have a lot to
teach them. About the world
around them and how to live in it.
Maybe if you give them your wisdom
they will do better with their
world than we did with ours.

NOAH

Maybe.

A moment for father and daughter.

The sun hangs low in the sky. It will be dark soon.

CUT TO:

THE SMALL CAMP

Ila and Noah stand looking down on the camp. Naameh, Japheth, and Shem play with the little twins. It is an idyllic scene.

Ila starts down. Noah pauses.

She looks back at her old father for a long beat.

She holds out her hand to him.

He hesitates.

Then takes it.

FADE TO BLACK.

And these words to end:

GENESIS 9

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth and every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and all the fish in the sea.

Unto your hand are they delivered."

Return to darkness and the end.

