

# ACHISH

INT. WAR TENT - CONTINUOUS

Saul and ACHISH face each other across a wooden table. Jonathan stands behind his father, by the tent flap. Across from him, standing by the opposite tent flap, the Philistine general GOLIATH.

ACHISH

What is the offer, Saul?

SAUL

Turn away and we will spare you.

ACHISH

You dragged me away from my dinner for this?

SAUL

We have the higher ground.

ACHISH

We have thirty thousand men!

\*

SAUL

The tribes are united. Judah is with us.

ACHISH

Then there are more of you to kill.

SAUL

(dogged)

We have three times the army you thought. Turn around and go home. Your losses will be too great.

\*

ACHISH

By my account, we still win.

SAUL

And lose half your army. I know you, Achish. For you, that cost is too high.

\*

ACHISH

The end is coming, Saul. Your coalition will not hold. Everyone knows your god has turned on you.

ACHISH (CONT'D)  
Surrender your city, and I will let  
your children live.

He turns and goes. After a moment, Goliath follows him.

CUT TO:

INT. ACHISH'S TENT - MOMENTS LATER

Achish moves into his tent, pleased with how that went. \*

His wife, ZAPHRA, turns as he enters. She is in front of a small altar which she has built to the Philistine god, Dogon. Achish starts to take off his gloves, his sword. She watches him, sensing his move.

ZAPHRA  
(not happy)  
We don't need their city.

ACHISH  
We do, in fact. Saul has stood in front of our trade routes for too long. He offered me nothing. So we take what we came to take.

ZAPHRA  
Their god is dangerous.

ACHISH  
All the more reason to destroy them.

ZAPHRA  
Please. My love. Listen to me.

ZAPHRA (CONT'D)  
Remember, when we captured their holy ark. Horror descended on our people. Plague. Disease.

She takes off her headscarf, revealing that half of her face is terribly disfigured.

ACHISH  
Zaphra.

ZAPHRA  
Look at me, Achish.

He reaches over and gently touches her scars.

ACHISH

I see you.

ZAPHRA

Are you doing this for revenge?

ACHISH

If I were, would you fault me? But I am not. The wealth of this small people is worth taking. We are strong, and Saul is weak. Weaker than he even knows.

ZAPHRA

And you know this, how?

ACHISH

I have a spy in his house.

Achish drinks his wine, completely confident in the strong hand he's been dealt.