

THE CARPET OF SOLOMON, Inspired by A HEBREW LEGEND

SCREENPLAY BY
KURTIS C.R. PALMER

Based on THE CARPET OF SOLOMON, A HEBREW LEGEND

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"The Carpet of Solomon" A Hebrew Legend, The Screenplay
By Kurtis C.R. Palmer

FADE IN:

OVER BLACK

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Once upon a time, there was a famous King named Solomon, the greatest King of Israel. He was the son of King David, who slew the Nephilim giant Goliath. King Solomon was known worldwide for his great wisdom. He built the first Temple of Jerusalem and is honored in Judaism and Christianity for his wisdom, recognized in the lineage of Christ, and revered in Islam as a great prophet. His beloved son, Rehoboam, was to become King of Israel one day. King Solomon hoped Rehoboam would learn from his wisdom to become a great king.

INT. KING SOLOMON'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM - DAY

KING SOLOMON is lounging on a silken, ivory-colored ornate couch. His 13-year-old son, Rehoboam, is sitting beside his father.

The room is ornate with a colorful feathered fan cooling the King above his head and silk curtains moving in the breeze.

There are muffled sounds from the market outside his balcony. There is silence in the room.

The SERVANTS are cooling the King and his son with fans.

The room is elegant with jewel-studded gold chalices.

The finest cedar outlines the expensive marble-mosaic floors and walls.

Beautiful tapestries hang on the walls of hunting scenes, the city of Jerusalem, peacocks, eagles, and other birds of a forest with a blue-sky background.

The room has gold carvings of peacocks and camels and cedar carvings of elephants and oxen.

Brilliantly robed COURTIERS search for any expression or change on the Great King's face, anticipating any request.

The female courtiers dressed in linen and cotton dresses flow at the bottom from the soft breeze. The experienced courtiers have small jewels and pearls scattered along the hems of their dresses.

The male courtiers are robes made of linen and cotton with outer garments of the same materials. The experienced courtiers have crimson, purple, and gold decorative designs on the ends of their sleeves.

Red, gold, and silver helmeted SOLDIERS with matching uniforms hold upright spears, guarding the King.

BENAIAH, Captain of the Royal Guards, is clothed in crimson, a plumed helmet on his erect head, and a chain of rare golden rubies across his chest.

King Solomon and Benaiah are discussing God. Rehoboam is listening intently.

BENAIAH

Great King Solomon! I beg you!
Please share the story of your
dream of the God of the Universe!

KING SOLOMON

(Solomon nods and
smiles at his son)
One night, I had a dream in which
Yahweh appeared to me.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. KING SOLOMON'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

King Solomon is kneeling by his bed praying.

The bedroom is enormous with white silken sheets and a large purple and gold interwoven textile bedspread. The headboard is Lebanese cedar with carvings of great eagles, peacocks, and magnificent trees. The bedroom has ornate gold carvings of animals. Bows and arrows along with ornate spears hang from the walls. White linen curtains move in a soft breeze.

A bright light shines through an open window of magnificent white, gold, tekhelet, and royal purple.

GOD
 What are your desires and
 petitions, My son?

King Solomon, head down and hands folded, does not
 lookup.

KING SOLOMON
 Heavenly Father, give me wisdom
 and knowledge, that I may go out
 and come in before this people;
 for who can judge these great
 people of Yours?

INT. PRESENT DAY, KING SOLOMON'S PALACE, THRONE ROOM. DAY

KING SOLOMON
 My prayer pleased God, who not
 only gifted me great wisdom but
 wealth, honor, and long life,
 provided I follow His
 commandments.

BENAIAH
 It is a magnificent story I have
 shared with many.

Rehoboam smiles and touches his father's sleeve.

KING SOLOMON
 (nods in agreement)
 It is a story of God's love and
 mercy!

The King stands up and moves towards the balcony to
 observe his subjects.

As he moves, the sounds of the marketplace become louder
 and more pronounced.

HE HEARS MERCHANTS BARGAINING, PEOPLE SELLING THEIR
 WARES, AND CHILDREN LAUGHING.

EXT. MARKETPLACE. DAY

The marketplace has narrow streets and yellow-white roofs
 with faintly-tinted domes.

A few dull Cyprus trees dot the streets.

THE MARKETPLACE BUZZES WITH ACTIVITY.

INT. KING SOLOMON'S PALACE THRONE ROOM - DAY

King Solomon waves to Benaiah, taking Rehoboam's hand. The three walk to a private corridor. Benaiah follows the King and his son, walking off with great confidence. The guards stamp quietly in unison, directly looking at the King.

The King, Rehoboam, and Benaiah enter the King's secret Treasure Room.

The room is filled with diamonds, emeralds, rubies, pearls, gold, silver, and ornate jewelry gifted to the King from admirers around the world.

Benaiah stands by the entrance of the Treasure Room while the King and his son stand.

Colorful silks with unique designs are folded neatly on antique dressers and cedar tables with onyx and marble tabletops.

Ivory and white linens, red and purple velvet, and beautiful tapestries are carefully folded and stacked near the dressers.

The King and his son walk to a large jewel-encrusted cedar box sitting alone on a large marble and cedar table.

King Solomon slowly opens the small chest, and the enormous emerald is the lone jewel in the box. It sits on a purple velvet cloth. He hands the jewel and cloth to Benaiah.

The emerald sparkles in the dimly lit room and emits a bright light, illuminating the entire chamber.

The three turn and leave the Treasure Room and return to the Throne Room.

The guards stamp quietly in unison, when the three return, keeping their gaze directly on the King.

The enormous green emerald with sharp parallel facets sparkles in the morning light.

The emerald casts a bright green light that nearly blinds the guards and courtiers.

King Solomon and Benaiah are accustomed to this brilliant light and do not blink or cover their eyes. Rehoboam looks to his father, trying not to blink.

The King sits back on his ivory couch and holds the emerald near his right eye. He sees all of Jerusalem while peering through the gem.

REHOBOAM

Father, our God, gifted you this gem to see the heart and soul of our people.

KING SOLOMON

And to search our kingdom high and low. Rehoboam, you will receive this flawless emerald when you are king.

King Solomon and Rehoboam walk to the balcony and the King peers through the emerald to see the marketplace in Jerusalem. The King hands his son the emerald to gaze at the city. Rehoboam smiles.

BENAIAH

(nods in agreement)

My lord, God has indeed blessed you with many gifts. Wisdom, strength, and riches beyond measure.

SOLOMON

My father, King David, was blessed by God, and our God blessed me with great wisdom and the skills of a master builder...

(pauses and continues...)

My father reminded me to "Keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn - for you are a wise man."

EXT. MARKETPLACE IN DOWNTOWN JERUSALEM - DAY

The King can see FOREIGN MERCHANTS unload their kneeling camels, shaking out rich silks and woven garments of dyed wool.

SELLERS and BUYERS bargain and wave their hands.

A variety of wares are for sale: tropical birds as bright as rainbows, tusks of yellow ivory, and embroidered pillows and silks.

Other merchants sell oranges, pomegranates, flatbread, burlap bags of grains, and more.

The merchants selling water lower their bulging goatskin bottles.

INT. THE KING ON HIS BALCONY AT HIS PALACE - DAY

The King witnesses a strange incident in the marketplace.

EXT. MARKETPLACE - DAY

FROM THE EMERALD'S POV we see a single CARPET MERCHANT leading a limping camel. Unbound from between its humps is a roll of carpet.

The Carpet Merchant is a short, black-bearded man in a travel-stained robe and turban.

The Carpet Merchant loosens part of the fabric. It is a strange and beautiful carpet designed with marvelous hues, colors, and ancient words.

All the PASSERSBY'S stop to look at the magnificent and strange carpet.

An OLDER WOMAN and FOUR MERCHANTS discuss the carpet. The woman looks to see if others are looking at the carpet.

OLDER WOMAN

What is this strange design?

The FIRST MERCHANT, wearing a colorful turban and an ornate robe of red, gold, and blue, lifts the corner of the carpet to see the backside.

He turns to speak to three other merchants.

FIRST MERCHANT

Never have I seen such an unusual carpet.

The SECOND MERCHANT, who's a little older and wearing a more ornate robe than the first merchant, looks annoyed. A tale spun by old women to frighten small children into behaving. I don't believe in such enchanted stories.

FIRST MERCHANT (CONT'D)

(to the other three
merchants)

Many tales and enchantments rise
from true happenings. Perhaps the
wise merchant is warning us to
protect us! I believe in such
things.

The second merchant throws his hands in the air then
touches the carpet.

SECOND MERCHANT

A tale spun by old women to
frighten young children, and...

(laughs)

...old, gullible men! I'm touching
the carpet, and these strange
words did not turn me into stone.
Foolishness!

FOURTH MERCHANT

(with a stern look)

Let us not forget these words.
"Death and life are in the power
of the tongue. And those who love
it will eat its fruit." Words have
power!

The four merchants lower their heads after the fourth
merchant's warning.

The Carpet Merchant begins speaking in serious tones with
solemn gestures.

He speaks directly to the four merchants (who look like
serious buyers) and then turns to the crowd.

CARPET MERCHANT

A mysterious spirit with mystic
powers gifted me this carpet as a
reward. I dare not disobey him,
for his powers are great!

A LARGER CROWD congregates to see what is going on to
cause all the commotion.

"OOHS" and "AHHS" FROM THE CROWD with BUYERS pushing
other BUYERS to the left and the right, trying to touch
the carpet.

INT. KING SOLOMON'S PALACE - KING'S THRONE ROOM - DAY

King Solomon speaks with Benaiah from his balcony.

KING SOLOMON

There is a disturbance in the marketplace. A merchant is displaying a magnificent carpet.

BENAIAH

(moves closer to the King)

Great King! Many carpets are sold in your marketplace - many beautiful and unique rugs.

KING SOLOMON

(concerned)

Yes, but why the disturbance? I need to look closer.

EXT. THE MARKETPLACE - DAY

The Carpet Merchant has a severe look and is animated, expressing his words with his hands.

CARPET MERCHANT

This spirit commanded me to sell the rug for sixty thousand pieces of gold, no more or no less!

The four merchants and the onlookers walk away.

The Carpet Merchant now stands alone and refastens the carpet to his camel.

INT. KING SOLOMON'S THRONE ROOM. DAY

King Solomon strokes his beard and places the emerald on an ornate table.

The King summons a GUARD by waving his hand.

KING SOLOMON

You will find a merchant of Persian rugs in the marketplace putting away a rug that no one will buy. Go, bring him here with his carpet.

The guard waves to TWO OTHER GUARDS, and they begin walking out of the room.

The other guards, in unison, stamp their spears on the marble floor.

The King moves to the balcony and again places the emerald to his right eye.

The King peers through the emerald, handing Rehoboam the emerald. Rehoboam peers through the emerald.

EXT. THE MARKETPLACE FROM THE POV OF THE EMERALD - DAY

The guards enter the marketplace and speak to the frightened Carpet Merchant.

Fearful the Merchant has stolen the carpet or angered the King, ONLOOKERS turn abruptly and walk away.

THREE WOMEN dressed in simple clothing, one holding a SMALL LITTLE GIRL'S hand, begin to whisper to each other as they walk.

One woman carries a weaved basket of pomegranates. A second woman has a simple purple silk scarf thrown over her arm.

The First Merchant and Fourth Merchant stand back by a table of beautiful vases and dishes. They are careful not to disturb the table but are very interested in what the King's guards want with the Carpet Merchant.

MERCHANT ONE

What has this merchant done?
Perhaps he has stolen the rug?
Could it be that the carpet
belongs to our Great King?

MERCHANT FOUR

I do not think that this carpet
belongs to the King! How brazen
and foolish would a merchant be to
steal such a magnificent treasure
from the Great King Solomon and
sell it in his marketplace in the
center of Jerusalem?

The chief guard steps toward the Carpet Merchant with two guards behind him.

CHIEF PALACE GUARD

(in a serious tone)

The Great King has summoned you.
Follow us to the Palace and bring
your camel with the carpet.

CARPET MERCHANT

(frightened)

But I have done nothing! I am here
to sell my carpet. I serve the
Great King Solomon, and I am
deeply loyal to him.

CHIEF PALACE GUARD

(stern)

The Great King has summoned you!
Follow me.

INT. KING SOLOMON FROM HIS BALCONY AT HIS PALACE - DAY

Solomon watches as the Carpet Merchant follows one guard
while the other guards follow the merchant with his
camel.

The onlookers separate and then move to other vendors to
view their wares.

INT. SOLOMON'S PALACE, THE HALL OF JUSTICE - DAY

The guards walk into the throne room in King Solomon's
Palace with the frightened merchant.

He's carrying his rolled-up carpet with the help of two
of the King's guards.

The Carpet Merchant stands in front of the King and his
son, shaking.

The King sits on his ornate throne of gold, diamonds,
emeralds, rubies, and other gems and looks at the
merchant. Rehoboam sits at his feet.

KING SOLOMON

(kind but
authoritative)

Have no fear. Only those who do
wrong need to fear me, for I can
penetrate the thoughts of every
man. What is this carpet which you
carry?

CARPET MERCHANT

(Voice shaking, arms
and legs trembling)

Most glorious and powerful King,
wisest of mankind! It is a magic
carpet woven with mystical words.
It has mysterious powers. Whoever
sits upon this carpet may command
it to transport him anywhere in
the world, and it will obey him at
once. There is nothing like it
under Heaven.

The King leans in a bit to see a corner of the carpet
before it is unrolled. Rehoboam stands and walks to
peruse the carpet. He touches the edge of the rug and
does not notice that the words on the carpet begin to
glow.

KING SOLOMON

It is a splendid carpet. The hues
and colors shame the most
magnificent flowers in my gardens!
I have never seen such a beautiful
masterpiece of weaving and
intricate designs. And yet, no one
wanted to buy it?

CARPET MERCHANT

Most powerful King, may I unroll
the carpet before your presence?
Do I have your permission?

SOLOMON

(Nodding)

You do.

CARPET MERCHANT

(Unrolls the carpet)

Most glorious King. I have sold
many carpets for over thirty
years. Never before have I seen a
rug of such splendor and beauty.
But the merchants turned away from
the marketplace because of its
cost. The price is sixty thousand
pieces of gold!

The guards do not move their heads, but their eyes shift
to the King and then to the carpet.

Rehoboam, surprised, looks at his father and then looks
back at the Carpet Merchant.