

Flames of Freedom Podcast Episode 10

"Dark Night of the Soul"

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This is a production of Lance Toland Entertainment.

FLAMES OF FREEDOM

EPISODE 10: DARK NIGHT OF THE SOUL

FADE IN UNDER

OPENING MUSIC:

SFX: OPENING MUSIC

ANNOUNCER

Welcome to Flames of Freedom,  
Episode 10: Dark Night of the Soul,  
a docudrama based on actual  
historical events brought to you by  
Lance Toland Entertainment. In the  
previous episode, we witnessed  
Samuel Nunes's tearful departure  
for the Colony of Georgia. His wife  
Rebekah has decided to stay behind  
in London to help their daughter  
give birth to her baby, and they  
recognize they may never see each  
other again.

FADE IN: [Pick up from the conclusion of Episode Nine]

SFX: Musical transition

SFX: cold winds and sea gulls; sails flapping in the breeze

ZIPPORAH

On the morning of January 13th,  
1733, with a chill in the air,  
forty-two of us gathered at the  
Gravesend Docks to board the  
William & Sarah frigate. Forty-two  
of us slowly filed onto the ship.  
Among us were 34 Sephardic Jews,  
including my family and the  
families of Abraham and Abigail  
Minis with their three children and  
brother, along with Benjamin and  
Perla Sheftall, all Ashkenazi Jews.  
My brother-in-law, Abraham de Lyon,  
carried a box of fine wood in his  
arms. Inside was the donated Torah  
inscribed on pieces of goat skin  
sewn together in accordion style,  
unlike the scrolls we're accustomed  
to today.

(MORE)

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

CAPTAIN HANSON, a young man in his early thirties, shouted commands to his crew as we boarded the ship. My parents stood off to the side at one end of the dock. I saw my mother rearrange his scarf.

SFX: wind blowing

REBEKAH

You'll catch a cold if you don't stay bundled up.

SAMUEL

Right again. Without your vigilant eye, I'd have no idea when to eat and sleep on the journey.

REBEKAH

Stop it, or I'll begin crying... Promise me, you'll be safe.

SAMUEL

I promise...

REBEKAH

And you'll look after the boys...

SAMUEL

My darling, they're not boys anymore. They need to look out for me!

REBEKAH

...and Zipporah...her heart is broken because David decided not to come.

SAMUEL

Zipporah is the least of my worries. I just hope she can be patient. If it's not David, there will be a good match for her.

REBEKAH

I will be on the next ship once Rachel has her baby. I promise. Nothing, and I mean nothing, will keep us apart.

SAMUEL

(tearfully)

We never know what God has in store for us.

(MORE)

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Rebekah, my love, if we never see each other again, you have been...the perfect wife for me. I can't imagine overcoming everything we have faced with anyone but you.

## REBEKAH

(tearfully)

Neither can I. Now go...go, or they'll leave without you. I will write you every day...and we will see each other again soon. Eu te amo, Samuel...te amo.

SFX: Musical transition

## BENJAMIN

Did your mother and father ever see each other again?

SFX: hurricane winds and waves growing louder as Zipporah speaks.

## ZIPPORAH

Benjamin, I think I shall leave that story for another time. Today, I want to tell you about our journey to America, which was tragic for some of us. In fact, when I look back on my life, it was the most harrowing experience I have ever had. We had barely entered the English Channel when enormous waves and hurricane-force winds pummeled the ship. Every hour, a new crack appeared in the hull, and water was leaking in everywhere.

SFX: mast cracking; wave breaking over the bow of the ship

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

In a major gust followed by a gigantic wave that rolled over the bow, the aft lower mast cracked. The crew immediately went to work to shore up the crack as the captain barked commands.

SFX: storm continues; gale winds

CAPTAIN HANSON

(above the sound of the  
storm)

Ensign Chapman, keep the bow  
pointed into the waves. Whatever  
you do, don't give the

waves a chance to roll us and  
expose our keel!

ENSIGN CHAPMAN

Aye, aye, sir! Doing the best I  
can, sir!

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Your best isn't good enough,  
Chapman. You bloody better well be  
perfect, man. Or we'll all drown!

ENSIGN CHAPMAN

Aye, aye, sir.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Shipwright Forester, what say ye?

SHIPWRIGHT FORESTER

Captain, it's bad. I have done  
everything I can to add support  
beams to the side of the mast, but  
the crack appears to be worsening  
with the force of the wind. I  
suggest we beach her or head to a  
port where we can safely make  
proper repairs.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Mister Stephens. How far do you  
reckon we are from Bournemouth?

ENSIGN STEPHENS

About half a day, sir. But, we

would have to set a course due north, and I fear we'd be exposing our port side to a battering from the westwards.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)  
What about Plymouth?

ENSIGN STEPHENS

It's about two days, sir. We could set a northwest course. I think the ship could withstand it.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)  
Chapman, set a northwesterly course to Plymouth.

ENSIGN CHAPMAN

Aye, aye, sir.

ZIPPORAH  
Captain Hanson then came below deck to check on us. The noise of the waves crashing on the ship's hull was deafening. People were seasick, moaning in their hammocks as they swung from side to side. Captain Hanson found my father as he attended to Judith Olivera, who was particularly ill.

CAPTAIN HANSON  
Doctor Nunes, how are your people faring?

SAMUEL  
Not well, Captain. How much more of this do you expect?

CAPTAIN HANSON  
The ship is taking quite a beating. We're heading to Plymouth, where we can repair the damage. Probably two days sailing.

SAMUEL

I'm not sure my people can hold up for two more days of this.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Have been in far worse, Doctor. Far worse. We'll be fine. You just keep your people's spirits up.

SAMUEL

Understood.

ZIPPORAH

My brother Moses stepped in...

MOSES

Captain, my brother and I worked for nearly six years in the building trades, the last three as carpenters. We'd be happy to lend a hand.

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

Captain Hanson sized up my brother Moses and Daniel, who had come to his side.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Very well. Go topside and tell Shipwright Forester that I sent you to help him. He's in charge. You do whatever he says. Understand?

MOSES

Aye, aye, Captain.

ZIPPORAH

My brothers grabbed oil-cloth jackets and headed topside. Captain Hanson headed to the ship's bow, where three men were working feverishly plugging a new leak. Two other men were operating a "backbreaker."

BENJAMIN

A what?

ZIPPORAH

A hand pump to remove the water. As you might imagine, it was hard work, and that's how it got its name.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Seaman Jones, who's winning the battle, man, ye or the water?

SEAMAN JONES

We have this in hand for now, sir.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Good. I'll send some fresh men down to relieve you on the pump. Keep up the good work, Jones. We're depending on you.

SEAMAN JONES

Captain?

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Yes, Jones.

SEAMAN JONES

Some of the men are saying that they've never seen such foul weather. A few think it's the Jews that caused it.

CAPTAIN HANSON (CONT'D)

Jones, they're a sorry lot. Maybe their forefathers killed Christ, but I doubt that God is punishing us for transporting them to the New World. I don't want to hear any more of that claptrap. Do you understand me? If the rest of the crew is spreading this poison, you tell them to bring their concerns to me. Have you got that, Seaman Jones?

SEAMAN JONES

Aye, sir.



## ZIPPORAH

The Captain then headed topside where the boatswain was managing the sails, some of which had been ripped apart by the storm. The ship's carpenter was working to keep the mast intact with the help of Moses and Daniel, who were proving useful. Down below, Benjamin Sheftall approached my father as he handed Judith a wooden mug.

## SAMUEL

(to Judith Olivera)

Judith, drink a sip of this every few minutes. It contains White Hellebore. It should help.

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

(to Benjamin)

What is it, Benjamin?

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

Can we have a word?

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Certainly.

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

In private.

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Let's talk over here by the sacks of grain. [pause] Yes?

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

I am hearing whispers.

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

You'll have to be more specific, Benjamin. Whispers about what?

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

That God is punishing us.

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Punishing us? You must be kidding.

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

Some are likening the severity of  
 this storm to Jonah and the Whale.  
 They are beginning to wonder  
 whether God has condemned us for  
 some unforgivable sin.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Are you suggesting we should throw  
 someone overboard to appease God?

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

No, of course not.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Benjamin, it's understandable  
 everyone is afraid. I'm afraid. We  
 have to reassure them. The captain  
 is steering the ship to Plymouth  
 for safe harbor and repairs. He's  
 young, but I trust he knows what  
 he's doing. If they bring up Jonah,  
 remind them to pray for safe  
 passage. No one here has  
 perpetrated such a sin that God  
 would drown all of us for  
 retribution.

BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

I'll do my best.

ZIPPORAH

My father grabbed Benjamin by the  
 arm as he was turning to leave.

SAMUEL

Benjamin, I can't do this all by  
 myself. If you're hearing  
 unbecoming rumors, bring them to  
 me. This is going to be a long  
 journey. And there will be plenty  
 of days of bad weather. We can't  
 have poisonous rumors infecting the  
 minds of our families.

ZIPPORAH

Benjamin nodded and returned to the  
 rest of the passengers.

SFX: Musical transition

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

At least that's what my father told me.

BENJAMIN

People really thought that God was punishing them?

ZIPPORAH

It was just one of the many things my father had to deal with on that long journey across the Atlantic.

BENJAMIN

You're not eating, Nonna?

ZIPPORAH

No, I had a late lunch. I don't have much of an appetite these days. Eat the soup; it's your favorite. Would you care for some butter with your bread?

BENJAMIN

Yes, please. I was wondering, what happened to Oglethorpe and the passengers on his ship? Did they have a rough passage, too?

ZIPPORAH

Well, as you know, I wasn't on that other ship, the one they called the Anne. Some of my friends much later shared with me, though, about their own travails as they crossed the Atlantic. While they experienced challenges, they weren't nearly as severe as ours, and before long, they found themselves nine miles off the coast of Charles Town, South Carolina...

SFX: musical transition

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

As the Anne approached the coast, all the colonists stood on the ship's deck, peering at the westward horizon. Oglethorpe, on the other hand, sat at his desk below deck, writing a letter to Lord Egmont and the other Trustees.

SFX: quill pen on parchment

OGLETHORPE

Gentlemen, we are nearing Charles Town and can see trees just above the Horizon with the naked eye. For sixty-eight days, we have seen nothing but sea, sky, and sail. Besides the loss of Richard Cannon's and Robert Clarke's youngest sons, it has been a favorable passage. It was no surprise, given how weak and half-starved these boys were from the onset of the voyage. Otherwise, all on board are in reasonable health except for Mr. Scott, who was badly bruised by a fall. We intend to take on a pilot in Charles Town to conduct us to Port Royal, where we shall hire embarkations to scout out possible locations for the Georgia settlement.

ZIPPORAH

A few minutes later, Oglethorpe put down his quill pen and climbed the ladder to the deck. There he found a group of children gathered on the bow peering intently at the approaching shoreline. He put his large hand on James Spencer's shoulder.

OGLETHORPE

Well, young Spencer, I understand you and your scouts were the first to spy land. Any site yet of Indians in their canoes?

JAMES SPENCER

Not yet, Mr. Oglethorpe. But we're on the lookout!

OGLETHORPE

Lads, if you spot any Indians, send out the alarm. We need to be sure they're friendly.

JAMES SPENCER

Yes sir. Look here, Mr. Oglethorpe. Captain Thomas rewarded us for being the first to spot the Carolina coast and gave each of us a farthing.

OGLETHORPE

Lads, I'll add a farthing to that offer for your excellent work getting us safely to Charles Town.

ZIPPORAH

He reached into his pocket and handed each of the children a farthing. They went running off to show their newfound wealth to their parents.

SFX: sounds of footsteps on the deck

JAMES SPENCER

(calling back as he ran)  
Thanks, Mr. Oglethorpe.

OGLETHORPE

(shouting after them)  
Keep up the good work, lads!

ZIPPORAH

A couple of men nearby were lighting their pipes.

OGLETHORPE

Top of the morning to all of you.

THOMAS CAUSTON

And the rest of the day to you, Mr. Oglethorpe.

SFX: musical transition

SFX: anchor dropping

ZIPPORAH

One hour later, the Anne anchored just off the port of Charles Town. A rowboat approached the ship

carrying GOVERNOR ROBERT JOHNSON

and COLONEL WILLIAM BULL.

Oglethorpe greeted them.

OGLETHORPE  
Governor Johnson!

GOVERNOR JOHNSON

Mr. Oglethorpe, what a pleasure it is to finally meet you. Allow me to introduce Colonel William Bull. He oversees the regiment stationed here.

COLONEL BULL

Your reputation precedes you, sir.

Welcome to Charles Town.

OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)  
Thank you, Colonel.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON

What plans have you now?

OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)  
I wish to depart for Port Royal, then head south to scout for a suitable location for the settlement. If possible, we would like to hire a pilot to guide us.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON

You're in luck. We have one of the best pilots on the Eastern Seaboard. I'm sure he'll be glad to be of service. Colonel Bull has graciously offered to accompany you with a contingent of scouts and rangers. He is quite familiar with the territories to the south.

OGLETHORPE (CONT'D)

That is most appreciated, sir. If it's possible, I wish to join you on shore to extend my gratitude to the Speaker of the Assembly for all his assistance with my correspondence over these past months.

GOVERNOR JOHNSON

By all means. I must say, Mr. Oglethorpe, yours is a noble effort, assuredly blessed by God.

OGLETHORPE

Thank you, Governor Johnson.

ZIPPORAH

Oglethorpe then turned and addressed all of the passengers.

OGLETHORPE

(to the passengers)

I will accompany the Governor and Colonel Bull to the mainland and return by no later than the morrow. We will proceed with a pilot to Port Royal within the week to restock the ship's stores and use that site as a temporary base for exploring the lands south to locate our permanent settlement. In my absence, address any concerns you have with Captain Thomas. He'll be in charge.

SFX: Musical transition

SFX: Storm abating; sounds of the docks

ZIPPORAH

Meanwhile, our ship, the William & Sarah, was battered for two days by a horrific storm that heaved giant waves over our bow. But finally, we found the fury of the storm's westward gales blunted by the Heritage Coast at the entrance to the bay leading to the Plymouth docks. When the ship was secured at the docks, all of us staggered onto the deck...

SAMUEL

Captain, God heard our prayers.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Your prayers, sir?

SAMUEL

Yes, Captain. That's my only explanation for how we survived that foul weather.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Well, God must have great sea legs, sir. With time, you and your fellow travelers will as well. In the meantime, you'll have to grow accustomed to being landlubbers for a time here in Plymouth. Repairs will take us at least two weeks, maybe more. I'll arrange a place for your people to stay, but be aware my contract does not cover the expense of lodging or food. You will have to foot those expenses.

SAMUEL

Sir, that's highly unfair, given the circumstances.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Circumstances? You mean the sea, sir. If I have learned anything in my days on a ship, the sea can be a nasty bedfellow. One day, you're lovers; the next day, you're adversaries. File your complaints with the ocean, Doctor Nunes, and see if she's in the mood to listen.

ZIPPORAH

The captain pivoted and began barking orders to his seamen.

CAPTAIN HANSON

Ensign, adjust the lines there. Take in the line on the bow...

SFX: Musical transition

ZIPPORAH

We found ourselves housed in an abandoned church at the edge of town, sleeping on makeshift mattresses filled with hay.

(MORE)



ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

There was no heat, so our only choice was to build a fire by the entrance in the courtyard. My brothers were often the first to stoke the fire and cook a large pot of porridge to feed us all.

SAMUEL

Good morning, sons.

MOSES

Morning, Father.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Quite a chill in the air this morning.

MOSES

Yes, Father.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Any word from the ship?

DANIEL

No. They had made progress when we visited late yesterday, but there's much more to repair. After breakfast, I plan to head down to speak with the Captain to see how they're progressing and if we can lend a hand.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Good. Keep me informed. Confidentially, tell me, what are you hearing from the passengers?

DANIEL

To put it bluntly, I believe you will have an insurrection on your hands if you don't act soon to

intervene.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
I suspected as much.

DANIEL

It's worse than you might imagine.  
It's not just these horrendous  
living conditions. Some are  
doubting the durability of the ship  
to make it in one piece across the  
Atlantic. Others feel you deceived  
them into making the voyage and  
wish they had remained in London,  
regardless of how difficult their  
circumstances were there. A few  
superstitious types are whispering  
that the storm was God's punishment  
for some unnamed sin and that God  
will not relent until the sinner  
has been sacrificed.

SAMUEL (CONT'D)  
God will not relent? You're right;  
it is worse than I imagined.

MOSES  
If you don't say something soon, I  
fear some may abandon us and  
attempt to return to London on  
foot.

SAMUEL  
Understood.

SFX: musical transition

SFX: Crackling fire

ZIPPORAH

Later that day, we were all gathered around the open fire. My father stood on a small wooden box to get our attention.

SAMUEL

I know this is not what any of us expected, being stranded in England after just a few days at sea, living like this in an old church. And I realize many of you feel discouraged. That is understandable. So, let's get it all out in the open. As a doctor, I know nothing is worse than a festering wound. It must be lanced and drained for it to heal. So...who wishes to speak first? Jacob, did you raise your hand?

JACOB

Yes, Samuel. I know you're doing your best, but many of us question the sea-worthiness of this ship. If we face these kinds of storms again in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, there will be no Plymouth or any port we can conveniently divert to. What more do we know about this ship and its young captain? And why should we trust him?

SFX: A hubbub of agreement; Yes, what do we know? The captain is so young! We're all going to drown! We want to go back to London!

SAMUEL

Those are fair questions, Jacob. Here's what I know. Anthony da Costa made all the arrangements for the ship.

JACOB

You mean you had nothing to do with it?

SAMUEL

I didn't say that. I did not blindly take his word that it was seaworthy.

(MORE)

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

Before I would risk my life and the lives of my entire family, I made several inquiries about the William & Sarah and Captain Hanson. The ship has successfully made twelve journeys across the Atlantic and back. And even though he is young, Captain Hanson has spent nearly all of his life serving under some of the best sea captains in England. I trust him and believe what we just experienced in the English Channel to be a quirk of nature that is unlikely to occur again.

## JACOB

You don't know that. I have heard stories of ships that never returned from their journeys across the Atlantic.

## SAMUEL

Jacob, what I do know is that in speaking with many of the sailors onboard, none had ever seen such a fierce storm, and they all credited Captain Hanson with getting us to Plymouth in one piece. So let me say unequivocally that my family and I have complete confidence in the ship and its captain, and we will be the first to board once the repairs are completed. Who else has a concern? [pause]

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

No one wishes to speak? [pause]  
Then, let me address a rumor that has been passed on to me. Contrary to what some may believe, this storm was not God's punishment for your individual or collective sins. I truly believe that our mission to create a New Zion in America is blessed by God. He may have been testing our faith, but our God is forgiving and loving, not one who punishes the defenseless, the downtrodden, and the poor. This I truly believe. But if any one of you believes that returning to London is preferable to starting a new life in Georgia, this is your opportunity to leave.

(MORE)

## SAMUEL (CONT'D)

And I would understand. But I'll tell you. We are like the Hebrews when they escaped Egypt and Pharaoh's wrath. They, like us, had doubts while they wandered in the wilderness, and some longed for the past, even though that would have meant back-breaking hardship and returning to slavery. Your returning to London will not bring you solace, wealth, or independence. You, like all of us, chose to embark on this journey in search of the promise of a new land because London was suffocating us. If you are like my family, we found no opportunity there, only prejudice and unrelenting disappointment. Will this new land be a better place for all of us? In my heart, I believe so, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that each of you can taste freedom and prosperity if you're prepared to work hard and have faith in our Father above. We are his flock and in his hands, whether we are in London or on a ship bobbing around in the ocean. I trust in the covenant he made with our forefathers that he will deliver us. And I ask you to search your hearts, stand strong, and have faith. That is all I have to say on this matter. If you desire to leave, come see me this morning. And I will bless your journey so that it is safe and that you find what you seek in life. But if you stand with me and my family, we will board the William & Sarah when repairs are completed, and together we will journey to America.

SFX: Musical transition

## BENJAMIN

Did anybody leave?

## ZIPPORAH

Not one soul. When my father stepped down from that wooden box, he looked into the faces of everyone;

(MORE)

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

in shame, they all looked to the ground and slowly dispersed. No one approached him that day with a request to leave. Three weeks later, the repairs on the William & Sarah were completed, and we departed Plymouth on calm seas. All of us had recovered from the calamitous first days aboard the ship. But there was one exception-- Abigail's and Isaac's infant daughter, Sarah. Her cough had worsened during the weeks in Plymouth, and she cried nonstop. Nothing they did could console her. My father examined Sarah below deck while Abigail cradled her.

SFX: baby crying

## SAMUEL

It's an infection in her lungs. Rub this salve on her chest every two hours. It should help.

## ABAGAIL

Isn't there anything else we can do?

## SAMUEL

She's going to be fine. Sarah's a strong and hearty child. Pay attention if anything changes with her breathing. If the cough worsens, let me know. And be sure to wrap her in blankets to keep her warm.

## ZIPPORAH

But two weeks later, little Sarah's condition suddenly worsened as we hit turbulent seas in the North Atlantic.

SFX: turbulent seas

## ABAGAIL

(desperate)

She's barely breathing. Samuel, please, do something!

ZIPPORAH

My father placed his hand on her chest, then lowered his ear to listen to Sarah's heart and lungs.

SAMUEL

Her heartbeat is very erratic. Abigail, I have tried everything I know to do...

ABAGAIL

(in tears)

You were the doctor to the King! Why can't you help my child, for God's sake...

SAMUEL

I am so sorry. There are just some things beyond my abilities...

ABAGAIL

She's not breathing. My baby's not breathing!

ZIPPORAH

My father bent down to listen to Sarah's heart and then slowly and gently placed his hand over her eyes.

SAMUEL

My dear. She's with God now.

ABAGAIL

No, dear God, no!

ISAAC

(sobbing)

ZIPPORAH

My father attempted to comfort Abigail. He motioned to Shem Noah to comfort Isaac, who also began sobbing. Others circled around silently, heads bowed.

SFX: Musical transition

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

I must tell you, my father, as a doctor, lost many patients in his years of practice, but the loss of baby Sarah hit him especially hard.

(MORE)

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

He took it as a personal failure  
and never forgave himself.

## BENJAMIN

But doctors aren't gods. He did  
everything he knew how to do.

## ZIPPORAH

True. Nevertheless, he had promised  
to deliver everyone safely to  
America and believed God was  
punishing him for his lack of  
faith. So sad, especially the  
funeral we held at sea...

SFX: musical transition

SFX: ship breaking through waves; wind blowing

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

The seas were rough as we gathered  
on the deck. The men steadied the  
women who attempted to keep their  
footing as the ship rolled back and  
forth. Abigail was holding her  
Sarah, who was wrapped in a shroud.  
The ship's carpenter had prepared a  
small wooden box and was standing  
to the side.

## ABAGAIL

(in uncontrollable tears)  
How can we just dump her into the  
sea? Why can't we wait to give her  
a proper burial?

## ABRAHAM MINIS

My dear Abigail, we are weeks away  
from land. Our Torah prescribes  
that our loved

ones be buried immediately, within  
a day of death. To keep our  
covenant leaves us no other choice.

## ABAGAIL

But, I'll never be able to visit  
the grave...



## ABRAHAM MINIS

Abigail, Sarah is already with God. You will be able to visit her anytime. You only need to speak her name, and she will hear you. Your love for her will not cease. It will extend into the heavens, and she and God will hear your prayers...

## ABAGAIL

(uncontrollable crying)  
No. No, No! I can't do it.

## ISAAC

Abigail, love. Please, let our baby go.

## ABAGAIL

No, please, no.

## ZIPPORAH

Isaac reached in and gently pried the baby from her arms. The other women moved in to support her. Abraham took a small knife, cut the collar of Isaac's shirt, and carefully reached in and cut the top of Abigail's blouse to denote they were mourning. Isaac then took Sarah and gently placed her in the small, open casket. The carpenter bound two ropes over the opening. Captain Hanson lifted the tiny casket, placed it in a net, and lowered it to the water's edge.

## BENJAMIN SHEFTALL

(his voice breaking also with grief)  
God, full of mercy, who dwells in the heights, we pray that you provide a safe resting place for the soul of Sarah, daughter of Isaac and Abigail. Master of Mercy, protect her forever and tie her soul with the rope of life. The everlasting is her heritage; may she reside peacefully upon her resting place, and let us say: Amen.

SFX: All those gathered echo his "Amen."

ZIPPORAH

When the prayer concluded, he  
nodded at the captain, who released  
one end of the rope.

SFX: splash of casket

ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

The casket slipped from the net  
into the choppy seas, quickly  
disappearing beneath a huge swell.

SFX: seas breaking

Audio: crossfades in the middle of the prayer into the sound  
of the falling rain and Zipporah's words fade in over.

ABAGAIL

(wail of grief)

ABRAHAM MINIS

I f all the men could  
please circle  
around for the Kaddish.

ABRAHAM MINIS (CONT'D)

(barely audible)

Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba  
b'alma di v'ra chir'utei; v'yamlich  
malchutei b'hayeichon u-  
v'yomeichon, uv'hayei d'chol beit  
yisrael, ba-agala u-vi-z'man kariv,  
v'imru amen. Y'hei sh'mei raba  
m'varach l'alam u-l'almei almaya.  
Yitbarach v'yishtabah, v'yitpa'ar  
v'yitromam, v'yitnasei v'yit-hadar,  
v'yit'aleh v'yit'halal sh'mei  
d'kudsha, b'rich hu, l'ela min kol  
birchata v'shirata, tushb'hata  
v'nehemata, da-amiran b'alma,  
v'imru amen. Y'hei sh'lama raba min  
sh'maya, v'hayim, aleinu v'al koi  
yisrael, v'imru amen. Oseh shalom  
bi-m'romav, hu ya'aseh shalom  
aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru  
amen.

SFX: falling rain

Audio: crossfades in the middle of the prayer into the sound  
of the falling rain and Zipporah's words fade in over the  
rain.

ZIPPORAH

Isaac embraced Abigail, who could  
not contain her grief.

(MORE)

## ZIPPORAH (CONT'D)

The crew solemnly returned to their duties as the rest of us slowly dispersed, going below deck to leave them to grieve alone as rain began to fall.

END

## ANNOUNCER

This is the conclusion of Episode ten of Flames of Freedom. Written by Richard Stone. Produced and directed by Mark Simon at Cue Tone Productions. Audio Engineering, Original Music, and Sound Design by David Wilson. Executive Producer Lance Toland. Special thanks to our ensemble cast...Zipporah played by Angelines Santana. Benjamin played by Jamie Treselyan. Diogo Nunes played by Juan Pablo Gamboa. Gracia Nunes played by Gabriela Lopetegui. James Oglethorpe played by Ian Russell. Additional roles played by Brad Davidorf, Barry Stoltze, Francois Clemenceau, Jerry McDaniel and Roxanne Rittman. [pick up from previous recordings] Thanks to Rabbi Saul Rubin, whose assistance throughout the development of this series was invaluable. And for their guidance and support

of this project from its early inception, special thanks to Rabbi Robert Haas of Congregation Mikve Israel in Savannah, GA, Rabbi Rachael Bregman of Temple Beth Tefilloh in Brunswick, GA, Rabbi Shalom Morris of Bevis Marks Synagogue in London England, and Lord Peter Levine of London City, England, and the Jewish Heritage Alliance for their support.

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