

At rise of play, we see an elderly African-American woman (same actress who will play Esther) sitting on the stage mending a quilt. She is dressed in modern clothing.

WOMAN

(Singing)

Nicodemus was a slave of African birth.  
And was bought for a bag of gold.  
He was reckoned a part of the salt of the earth  
But he died years ago.

Nicodemus was a prophet, at least he was as wise  
For he told of the battles to come  
How we trembled with fear, when he rolled up his eyes  
And he heeded the shake of this thumb.

CHORUS:

Good time coming, good time coming  
Long, long time on the way;  
Run and tell Elija to hurry up Pomp  
To meet us under the cottonwood tree,  
In the Great Solomon Valley  
At the Break of day

(Lights fade up, a PROMOTER, in another part of the theater, waving handbills for the Nicodemus Settlement.)

PROMOTER

To the colored citizens of the United States. We, the Nicodemus Town Company of Graham County, Kansas, are now in possession of our lands and the town site of Nicodemus, which is located on the N.W. quarter of Section I, Town 8, Range 21, in Graham County, Kansas, in the great Solomon Valley, 240 miles west of Topeka, and we are proud to say **IT IS THE BEST COUNTRY WE EVER SAW!** The soil is rich and black! The country is rolling and pleasing to the human eye! The Solomon River flows through Graham County and offers an abundance of excellent water! There is fine Magnesian stone for building and timber, timber plenty for fire use! And coal we are sure to find!

Now is your time to secure your home on Government land in the Great Solomon Valley of Western Kansas.

Daily we receive letters from all parts of the country desiring to locate in the great Solomon Valley of Western Kansas. Colored citizens of the United States realize your future, confront your past, come to the promised land, come to Nicodemus!