

Scene 8

HANNAH. (*Looking at a drawing.*) Where did this come from?
JANE. It was given to me.

HANNAH. By whom?

JANE. Says on the paper. Says it's for me. There's my name.

HANNAH. You are not permitted to have such things. (*To Phebe.*) We have no secrets here.

JANE. There's other words written on the paper, but I can't read 'em.

BETSY. It's very beautiful.

HANNAH. (*To Jane.*) Who gave you this?

JANE. It was sent to me from Mother Ann. It's a picture of my children.

BETSY. Perhaps it's a gift drawing.

JANE. It's a picture of heaven. See, there are pictures of my children. There are all my children. Frederick, Susannah, Benjamin, Margaret, 'Lizabeth-Ann. It's a gift from Mother Ann to me. My children are in heaven. With Mother Ann. Mother Ann loves me. She sent me a picture of heaven.

HANNAH. It is a sin to create a picture of heaven.

JANE. Why?

HANNAH. How can we with our imperfections create a picture of something perfect? (*Phebe starts to interrupt.*) This is a picture of pride. This is a picture of sin.

JANE. My babies are innocent.

HANNAH. Your children have gone to live with their heavenly father and mother. You must accept the wisdom of our heavenly parents. You will find more comfort in prayerful contemplation. (*A pause.*) This is a not a gift. It is a work of pride from a confused, misguided young woman. We will no longer indulge these false gifts. (*Hannah tears up the drawing. Jane holds out her hand for the pieces. Hannah puts them in her own pocket.*)

BETSY. Come, Sister Jane. We must return to our chores. (*Betsy and Jane exit to the side benches.*)

PHEBE. You should apologize to her.

HANNAH. I should what?

PHEBE. You should apologize to her. That picture brought her comfort.

HANNAH. She will find more comfort in her labors. In her work. PHEBE. She never has before.

HANNAH. Perhaps you should guide her better, Sister Phebe. Especially if you hope to become an elder yourself some day. (*Hannah exits. Phebe moves a bench. Lights change.*)

Scene 9

The women all kneel in prayer.

PEGGY.

I NEVER DID BELIEVE

THAT I EVER COULD BE SAVED

WITHOUT GIVING UP ALL TO GOD.

HANNAH. Let all confess their sins. (*No one speaks. Jane stands up and exits.*) We will now confess our sins. (*During the silence, Fanny rises.*)

FANNY. Holy Mother Wisdom speaks to me. (*Fanny begins to shake.*) Holy Mother Wisdom speaks to me. Holy Mother Wisdom speaks to me. (*All the women are looking at Fanny.*)

HANNAH. (*Abruptly ending the service.*) May we go forth in the strength and the power of the gospel and labor for the spirit of conviction.

ALL. Amen. (*Lights change. All sit on the side benches except for Fanny and Hannah. We go immediately into the next scene.*)