

Jesus Tests Believers' Works by Fire at Heaven's Gate
About 5 minutes, from 1 Cor. 3: 11-15 and Num. 31: 1-23

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Anna

Voice (of God)

Moses

Captain

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Anna We believers who have died in Christ hear the final trumpet and awaken.
We rise with Jesus in our resurrection bodies, to live eternally with him
and to see him at last!

Prompter & Echoes Face to face!

Anna We draw near to heaven's gates and see the Holy City, heavenly Zion!
It takes our breath away, as when Sheba's visiting queen
first saw Solomon's grand temple! Such astonishing magnificence!
Such massive, beautifully jeweled gates!

Prompter & Echoes Unspeakable glory!

Voice Come, beloved, chosen from before the foundation of the world.

Anna The huge gates swing open. But wait!
What is this? I was not expecting it.
Before the entrance, we must pass through the customs inspection
and leave our contraband behind.
Jesus examines our baggage with purifying fire.
Before his judgment seat, we can hide nothing.

Prompter & Echoes Trial by fire!

Anna 1 Corinthians 3 describes this fiery test.
Jesus tries our works, the things we did on earth.
It recalls Numbers 31.

Prompter & Echoes Idolatrous Midianites lead Israel to sin!

Anna Moses orders his army captain to take action. Listen.

Moses Captain of the host! Arm your men for war.
You will carry out the Lord's order.

Prompter & Echoes To battle!

Captain We soldiers attack Midian as the Lord had commanded Moses;
we burn their cities and return with a huge amount of captured treasure.

Moses Captain, what is all that stuff you carried back with you?
Your men are trying to sneak forbidden things into the Lord's camp.

Captain It is the booty we captured, Moses.
Just look at these amazing images of silver and gold.
They're worth a fortune!

Prompter & Echoes We are rich!

Moses How dare you bring those cursed idols into the Lord's sacred camp!

Prompter & Echoes Contraband!

Moses Build a hot fire, Captain, and pass all that booty through the flames.

Prompter & Echoes Let it melt the metals!

Captain I build a great fire and we toss the silver and gold idols into the inferno.
They melt. We also throw in pagan images of wood.
The fire dies down, and we salvage only the gems and precious metals,
no longer shaped as the graven images that God detests.

Prompter & Echoes No more idols!

Moses The gold, silver and bronze that withstood the fire are clean.
Bring them into the Lord's camp, Captain. Nothing else.

Prompter & Echoes Only what is pure.

Anna It's the same now.
We can bring no contraband into the heavenly city of Zion.

Prompter & Echoes Jesus himself lights the flames.

Anna I recall what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:
"No one can lay a foundation except on Jesus Christ.
If one builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones,
wood, hay or straw, one's work will become evident;
the day of Christ will reveal it with fire."

Prompter & Echoes Purifying fire!

Anna The fire tests our works. For what remains we will receive reward.
For what burns up we will suffer loss; but we ourselves will be saved.

Prompter & Echoes Saved by fire!