

Genesis Topic 3

Testing 1-2-3

This comes from the test of the “Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

Tests are both physical and spiritual. Physical tests often lead to spiritual tests. Math is a physical test.

Give me your E-A-R. He who has ears to hear let him hear.

Some things lost in translation. Texas Ranger goes after bank robber across the border.

1. Elements of Testing.

Test = analysis, investigation, examination, assessment, experiment

One set of circumstances, at least two pulls. One is test, one is temptation.

A. Assess the quality. (silver test). Character test.
PEIRADZW/PEIRASMOS = trials with a beneficial purpose, divinely permitted or sent. Designed for the purpose of ascertaining quality, thought or behavior.

Testing is designed to determine the depth and integrity of one’s commitment to God (see, e.g., God’s command to Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice in Gen. 22:1-19; also the testing of Job in Job 1-2).

Is it what’s right or who’s right?

Your boss falsely accuses you of error.

Returning air filters.

B. Assess the authenticity. (Diamonds). Hypocrisy tests.
DOKIMADZW/DOKIMOS = to test metals, test for authenticity.

Your boss confronts your error. Your kids confront your error.

Humility. Admit error or cover up?

C. Tests are opportunities to honor God or honor self.
(what do we do with complements? Honors, awards?)

D. Temptation is an enticement to sin.
Often leading to a deliberate act of evil against God or one’s neighbor. God does not ‘tempt’ humans to do evil (e.g., James 1:12-15) and in fact makes available the resources necessary to resist temptation (e.g., 1 Cor. 10:13).

E. It is God’s prerogative to test man. Exo 20:18-20

All the people perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. 19 Then they said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die." 20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to **test** you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin."

It is from the Lord. Prov 17:3

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests hearts.

F. It is not man's prerogative to test God. Exo 17:1-2

(Sometimes we choose to test the Lord which will result in discipline.)

Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water that we may drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you **test** the Lord?" **Deut 6:16-19** You shall not put the Lord your God to the **test**, as you tested Him at Massah. 17 "You should diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and His testimonies and His statutes which He has commanded you. 18 "You shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you and that you may go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore to give your fathers, 19 by driving out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.

The intent of this testing is ultimately to strengthen the person's faith and devotion to God. In each, if people overcome temptation, i.e., pass the test, their faith has been enhanced and their character strengthened (e.g., Rom. 5:3-5)

2. Attitude about Testing.

When tempted fight or flee? Actually both, fight sin by fleeing to God.

Stay away from the bait rather than having to get off the hook.

A. Expect it as a part of life. Psa 11:5-7

The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will rain snares; Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup. For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.

B. Do not be surprised by it. 1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

C. God has a purpose. Exo 16:4

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

D. It is designed to benefit us. James 1:2-8

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

3. Results of Testing.

A. Builds our hope. Rom 5:3-5

And not only this, but we also exult in our **tribulations**, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

B. Evaluates our work. 1 Cor 3:10-15

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will **test** the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Passing the Tests of Life (P-A-S-S)

You can pass it. 1 Cor 10:12-14

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it. 14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

To get rid of your cross is easy, die on it.

1. Personalize the Test. 2 Cor 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you — unless indeed you fail the test?

2. Assess the Elements by testing the “spirits” of the world. 1 John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test** the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.

3. Seek God’s Will. Deut 4:29-31

But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. 30 "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice. 31 "For the Lord your God is a compassionate God; He will not fail you nor destroy you nor forget the covenant with your fathers which He swore to them. **Psa 119:1-2** How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord. 2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.

4. Submit to His Kingship. James 4:6-10

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE." 7 Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

Fame test: Praise comes your way? Or doesn't?

Test: your spouse says or does something that you perceive as unloving or dishonoring you. Response?

Fortune test: Spending. Accumulation of the world's goods?

Americans used to say “give me liberty” now it is just “give me.”

Power test: resent the authority of others.

Pleasure. Sin or sanctification?

Unfulfilled expectations: Fear, Anger, Guilt?

The best way to escape evil is to pursue good.