

Rebellion, Ruin and Rescue
JUDGES

Judges 2:20-3:6

The Lord's Peculiar Testing

²⁰ So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers and has not listened to My voice,

²¹ I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died,

²² in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not."

²³ So the LORD allowed those nations to remain, not driving them out quickly; and He did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

³ Now these are the nations which the LORD left, to test Israel by them (*that is*, all who had not experienced any of the wars of Canaan; ² only in order that the generations of the sons of Israel might be taught war, those who had not experienced it formerly).

³ *These nations are:* the five lords of the Philistines and all the Canaanites and the Sidonians and the Hivites who lived in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal-hermon as far as Lebo-hamath.

⁴ They were for testing Israel, to find out if they would obey the commandments of the LORD, which He had commanded their fathers through Moses.

⁵ The sons of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites;

⁶ and they took their daughters for themselves as wives, and gave their own daughters to their sons, and served their gods.

Judges 2:20-3:6

The Lord's Testing

➤ Divine Speech

1. The Lord's Accusation: Israel has broken the covenant
2. The Lord's Reaction: suspends His promise to drive out the remaining nations
3. The Lord's Purpose: to test Israel, whether or not they will keep the covenant

The Lord's Testing

1. The Nature of the Test

- the challenge to give exclusive allegiance to Yahweh in the face of the temptations and enticements of the nations

The Lord's Testing

2. The Purpose of the Test

- to strengthen Israel's fidelity to Yahweh and to know Him as their God
- to display the depth of Israel's infidelity and the Lord's justice in His judgment

The Lord's Testing

3. The Results of the Test

- Israel failed! they accommodated the nations, intermarried with them, and worshiped their gods

The Lord's Testing

Application

1. God's aim in testing us is to strengthen our dependence on Him and our experience of Him as good and sufficient

The Lord's Testing

Application

2. Every temptation is at the same time a test; God never tempts us to sin but He always tests us

The Lord's Testing

Application

3. God may chose for the consequences of our sin to remain as a means of testing us with new opportunities for obedience and growth

²You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

³He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD...

...¹⁵He led you through the great and terrible wilderness, *with its* fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; He brought water for you out of the rock of flint.

¹⁶In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.

(Deuteronomy 8:2-3; 15-16)

"MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF
THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;
FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

⁷ It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with
sons; for what son is there whom *his* father does not discipline?

⁸ But if you are without discipline, of which all have become
partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons...

He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but
sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it
yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

(Hebrews 12:5-11)