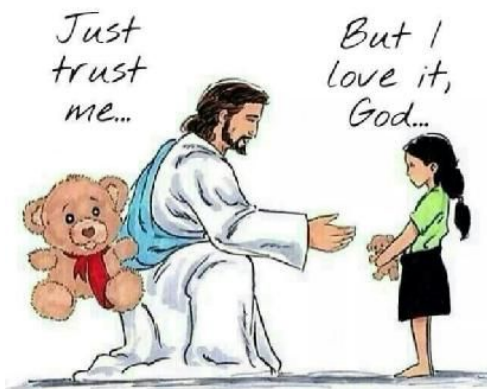


Week 10 | Test

Does God Test Us?

[Being tested is a natural part of being human. So it is no surprise that being tested is also a biblical design pattern. Characters in the Bible experience tests throughout the entire story to see if they can live up to God's intended purpose for humanity. Let's look at the narrative pattern of God putting a test before humans to see if they respond with faithfulness or act on their own wisdom in disobedience.



Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. **3**Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. **4**And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing. James 1:2-4

Will all humans undergo this same test? And the answer is simple: yes. We all will be confronted with a similar test, and the choice is up to us. Are we going to live by God's wisdom or our own? Are we going to let our sin rule us, or will we rule over our sin? Will we partner with God to bear his image in the world, or will we go it on our own?]

Adam & Eve

[The tree of knowing good and bad represents a choice for humans. But it's not the choice element alone that makes this an important biblical test; it's the result of those choices. One option is for humans to seize the authority to define good and evil by their own knowledge, while the other is to obey and continue living in intimacy with God and learning God's wisdom and will.]

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Romans 6:22-23

[The scene in the garden of Eden and the choice between our own path or abundant life in God is something that all people must face. God designed humans to be co-creators and co-rulers with him (this is what it means for us to be made

in the image of God). The only way to succeed at this vocation is to eat of God's own life. This means that the opportunity to truly be human in the way God intended is also a test. And the choice is up to us.

Adam and Eve chose to eat of the tree of knowing good and bad, going down a path apart from God's instruction and wisdom. Yes, they were duped into this choice by a deceptive creature, but in the end, the choice was their own. As a result, they were banished from the garden, losing access to the tree of life. But the opportunity to walk with God and rule over creation on His behalf didn't disappear.]

By disobeying God and choosing the decision based on deception and their own wisdom, they were exiled and separated from God. This began the downfall of man in sin. This is why Jesus had to come to pass the test and become the ultimate sacrifice to atone for all our sins to put us in right standing with God.

[And so the test is still before all of us, an opportunity to be united with God as he intended. Sin is a powerful force, and this is no simple test, but there is hope. The test has already been passed on our behalf.

Jesus came to do the work that humanity could not, reuniting us with God and restoring us to our divine purpose and the ideal of the garden.]

What Lessons Can We Learn from Eve?

1. Be Grateful
2. Don't Doubt What God Says
3. Release Control
4. Wholeness Does Not Come From External Things
5. Do Not Depend on Your Own Understanding

Cliff Notes

God Created A World to share with His creation. Adam and Eve were Appointed to rule over It & given access to God's wisdom which leads to life; However, there was one tree they could not eat from which was choosing for themselves to know "right from wrong" in their own wisdom & it lead to death.

The Test is a test of loyalty. It is an opportunity to do something important and

noble. They must accept God's knowledge above their own.

The Snake seizes the opportunity to test them to do what God told them not to do.

The test became a trap. He used deception by twisting God's words and causing Eve to doubt.

Abraham and Sarah

God calls a man, Abraham, to father a nation of chosen people. But as part of his covenant with God, Abraham must pass a test and prove that he is willing to submit to God's wisdom instead of his own. Will he pass the test that Adam and Eve failed?

Abraham is first introduced to the reader as one who passes his first test. He is called to leave his land and family and go to a new land. And with no questions asked, Abraham does it! But just as soon as he arrives, he encounters a crisis of food shortage. Will he remain in the land God promised to give him, trusting God to provide for his family's security, or will he leave the land and try to provide his own safety and security? He chooses the latter option, and even worse,

he places his wife in danger in order to save his own life!

Later in the story, both Abraham and Sarah fail another test of faith. God has just repeated the promise that they will have a son and produce a great family and nation (see Genesis 15), but they become impatient and decide to take matters into their own hands. Because of Abraham and Sarah's sin, God tests Abraham's faithfulness with the ultimate requirement: the life of the miraculous son that God eventually provided for them, Isaac.

"Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.'"

"Abraham stretched out his hand and took the 'eater' to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you

have not withheld your son, your only son from me.”

“By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed my voice.” GENESIS 22:1-18

Sources

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The Israelites

“ And you shall remember [always] all the ways which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, so that He might humble you and test you to know what was in your heart (mind), whether you would keep His commandments or not. He humbled you and

allowed you to be hungry and fed you with manna, [a substance] which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, so that He might make you understand [by personal experience] that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your feet swell these forty years.
“ Deuteronomy 8:2-4

Key Points

Where God Leads He Provides.

Isaiah 58:11

God disciplines who He loves.
Hebrews 12:6

God will allow you to make your own decisions until you learn His way is best.

God has a Plan for you, (Jer. 29:11) but it requires submission, sacrifice, and Humility to His ways to walk into it.

Even though you may disobey, God will still keep you. This does not exempt you from the consequences of your sin. His grace is sufficient for you. 2 Cor. 12:9

God gives His wisdom Freely.