

Standing the Test

Hey?... Wait!... What?

Standing the Test? What "Test"?

Standing the Test of what exactly?...The Test of Time, The Test of Temptation, The Test of Trouble, The Test of Suffering?

Let's have a look!....

After all, if there's a test, we want to study, be ready and do our best on it!!!

*The one commonality here for certain is that this test you're now preparing for is taken throughout your entire life here on earth. To be perfectly clear, I say **now** because, once called, this continual testing lasts throughout your entire life.*

Let's face it...we all go through all sorts of trials. People become puzzled by questions like:

Do Christians have car accidents?

Do followers get cancer?

Are the brethren ever fired from their jobs?

The answer to all three is, of course, yes.

Why? They ask how come? They find themselves delving into the Old Testament books where Yah clearly promised success and protection to the Israelites. As we all know, there is a stipulation to this indeed. More on that coming up shortly...

First, I find it simply amazing that the word "trial" (i.e. test) is found in the entire bible only six times! Yet, hundreds of tests are depicted within its pages.

Let's start studying with Job's test.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

And in Job 36:15 He delivereth the poor in his affliction, and openeth their ears in oppression.

Here, Job clearly confirms that God is not deaf to our cries and is in control of this world no matter what it looks like. True, God did not answer all Job's questions, but His very appearance caused Job's doubts to melt away. Job studied and learned the lesson that God cared about him and that God truly rules the world.

Next, Peter shows us the importance of studying for the test prior to Yahshua's return.

1 Peter 1:6~7 ¶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

And further ahead in Chapter 4.

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1 Peter 4:12~16 ¶ Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

And summing it up in verse 19

1 Peter 4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

When given these types of tests, it is imperative to remain steadfast in righteousness. Why imperative? Let's read a lesson from Paul to see the pinnacle importance.

2 Corinthians 12:7~10 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul exemplifies for us here the paramount importance of living your life through weaknesses, insults, hardships and difficulties. For without these trials, there would be no benchmark for improvement; no possible way of becoming strong. Furthermore, Paul allows us to see it even clearer here:

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

For within this brief lifetime of sufferings, temptations and troubles, it is our faith that gives us the forthcoming reward of eternal life! Let's return to Peter for confirmation on this:

1 Peter 5:10 ¶ But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

*Please note: the word stablish
Strong's 4599. syenow sthenoo, sthen-o'-o*

*from sthenos (bodily vigor; probably akin to the base of 2476); to strengthen, i.e. (figuratively) confirm (in spiritual knowledge and power):--strengthen.
Confirm in spiritual knowledge – hence, to study.*

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Food for Thought: Verse 10 is loaded with key points to the premise of this study.

With that said, it's as good a time as any to now turn to the Gospel of John to see what Yahshua Himself says regarding this topic.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye **might** have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Note the word might. More on that in just a minute...

Let's have a peek as to how James sees this testing of faith:

James 1:2~4 ¶ My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

And verse 12

12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried (*tested*), he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Turning to Psalms...

Psalms 17:2~5 (NKJV) Let my vindication come from Your presence; Let Your eyes look on the things that are upright. 3 You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. 4 Concerning the works of men, By the word of Your lips, I have kept away from the paths of the destroyer. 5 Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip.

As promised, now back to that aforementioned stipulation referred to earlier.

Recapping: Yah promised success and protection. Yes, but there was a stipulation.

Let's go to Deuteronomy to see what that was.

Deuteronomy 31:20 For when I shall have brought them into the land which I swear unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

Did you get that?

Deuteronomy offers a clue to why Yah does not exempt His followers from every bad thing in life. Ironically, two things, prosperity and health, may make it harder to depend on God. The Israelites proved least faithful to God after they moved into the promised land. When in the desert, at least, just for daily survival itself, had been forced to lean on Yah. And we all know what came next...After a very short time in Canaan, they forgot all about Him! What a shame! Go figure?

Paul clarifies this for us concerning the Israelites' disobedience as well as their disbelief in Messiah at His coming; all for our benefit. Let's go see it...

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Romans 11:28~33 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. 30 For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. 33 ¶ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

In closing, I'd like to look at James 1:4 once more:

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that **ye may be** perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Notice it states you may be?

As in "maybe", not definitely, not a shoe in!

*Breaking it down even a bit further, **ye may be***

Strong's #5600. w o, o

*the subjunctive of 1510; (may, might, can, could, would, should, **must**, etc.; also with 1487 and its comparative, as well as with other particles) be:--+ appear, are, (may, might, should) be, X have, is, + pass the flower of her age, **should stand**, were.*

Hope you're seeing it....

That you must stand (In Him) perfect and whole!...wanting nothing more throughout your entire testing session!

And once again - taken from The Complete Jewish Bible:

James 1:4 starting in verse 2

James 1:2~4 Regard it all as joy, my brothers, when you face various kinds of temptations; for you know that the testing of your trust produces perseverance. But let perseverance do its complete work; so that you may be complete and whole, lacking in nothing.

So – Did anyone get it correct?

What's the test on?

It's on Your Faith!

It's on Your Eternal Life!

Sharpen your pencils, have a clean tablet, live righteously.

Live by Faith – The Action of Your Belief...

We pray you get an A+ and that You are found standing there with Him!

Selah

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All Scriptures KJV unless otherwise noted

A Proverb to Ponder

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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