



DAILY DOCTRINE: Testing: the Ten Tests of Exodus Generation: Test #2, the Bitterness Test
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/10-tests.2.pdf>

1. Passage on the ten tests of the Exodus generation and exclusion from the promised life (supergrace life): **Numbers 14:22** *"Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, ²³ shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.*
2. Test two: the mental attitude sin of bitterness. This sin is manifested by murmuring and complaining. Therefore, this sin actually festers or morphs into becoming sins of the tongue as well.

Exodus 15:23 *And when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. ²⁴ So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" ²⁵ Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. ²⁶ And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."*

3. The issue: Will the believer live in divine viewpoint (with its properties of gratitude and joy) or human viewpoint (with its properties of entitlement attitude and bitterness)? It always comes down to the basic attitude in life. Are you living in divine viewpoint of the plan of God—that unique plan of grace, or are you living by human standards of kosmos diabolicus? If you are living by the kosmos, it is going to be all about comparing yourself with others or what you feel you deserve in life. If you live by the grace of God, you will look to God for your happiness and meaning in life.
4. The second test deals with the difficult and distasteful details of our lives (bitter waters). We all have unpleasant details of our lives, e.g., strained relationships, health issues, loneliness, financial problems. The question is what are you going to do about them? Are you going to allow bitterness to take root in your soul and destroy your capacity for life, or will you use the difficulty to orient to the plan of God and realize that God is in control and that He can actually turn the bitter waters into sweet waters. Only He can do that!

5. Once bitterness begins to develop its root system in your soul, it is very difficult to remove. Simple change of circumstances does not remove the bitterness. I have known Christian women who married men who were not believers and subsequently became very bitter because they could never be the spiritual leaders for which their heart desires. Later, when the unbeliever became a believer, one might think that the bitterness would disappear. Not so! The bitterness had taken root. It is just that now she no longer has “justification” for the bitterness that is still in her soul. This can be even more frustrating for her (the couple later divorced—and both are “messed up” spiritually, mentally, and psychologically). A bitter person will always look for something to grip about. What a life.
6. There are very good reasons the Lord tells us not to let bitterness take root in our lives. Enjoy life: live in the sunshine of God’s grace instead of the dark and defiling attitude of bitterness. Make grace your priority in life and see how God can make the bitter waters of life very sweet.

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

In the Logos,

Pastor Don