

DAILY DOCTRINE: Testing: the Ten Tests of the Exodus Generation:
Test #4, the Temporal Provision Test
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/10-tests-4.pdf>



1. Review

- a. Test #1: **Fear test** at the Red Sea as the Israelites were caught between the Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. The issue: Will the believer trust the Lord when he faces danger?
- b. Test #2: **Bitterness test** at the waters of Marah, Exod. 15:23-26. The issue: Will the believer remove the bitter things of life through a relationship with God?
- c. Test #3: **Grumbling-at-the-details-of-life test, Exod. 16.** Will the believer appreciate the blessings God has provided, or will he grip and complain about uncomfortable details of life?

2. Test #4: **Temporal Provision test, Exod. 17:1-7:**

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?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will stone me." ⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ "Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"

3. Test #4: Temporal provision test: will I trust God to provide what I need, or will I complain to Him about how *unfair* life is?
- While the first test deals with fear and danger (at the Red Sea, Exod. 14), and the second test deals with bitterness (at the bitter waters, Exod. 15), and the third test deals with grumbling at the difficult circumstances of life (Exod. 16), the fourth test deals with trusting God for necessary provisions (Exod. 17).
 - The Israelites' dependency upon God is tested. This is a trial of faith that God will provide the necessities of life.
 - All believers will be tested. God's design is to wean us from dependence upon kosmos diabolicus. We are to have no reliance upon the material and human resources. We are to trust God—this is the issue! He will provide. The only question is the how.
 - The “no water” tests of life are extremely painful and difficult, especially for the believer who has an entitlement attitude.
 - The fact that God continues to provide opportunities for the Israelites to grow up through these tests shows just how longsuffering God is.
 - God knew there would be no water there, and yet He directed them to this very place.
 - If you are following the Lord, and are facing privation of some sort, rest in the fact that God not only brought you to this place, but He will provide.
 - You have two choices in this test: you can past the test by trusting and orienting to God or you can distrust Him and become more disoriented to the plan of God.
 - It was no harder for God to provide water than to part the Red Sea, keep its waves up until the Israelites crossed over the *dry* river bed, turn the bitter waters into sweet water, and to provide manna, than it would be for Him to provide water. He is their God and Shepherd. As a Good Shepherd, He will always see to it that His children are provided for.
 - The choice for each believer in times of privation: trust God or distrust God.
 - Disjunctive syllogism as to the actions of the Israelites in Exodus 17:

Trust God (and find peace) v Distrust God (and complain).	T v D
<u>-Trust God</u>	<u>-T</u>
Distrust God	D

- Disjunctive syllogism as to the actions of God in Exodus 17

Provide for them in grace v Destroy them all for rebelling	P v D
<u>- Destroy them all for rebelling</u>	<u>-D</u>
Provide for them in grace	P

(=Grace!)

In the Logos,

Pastor Don