

## "Reasons For Testing"

**TEXT: Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

Intro: Lord speaking to the children of Israel.

-He wants them to remember why He led them in the wilderness for 40 years.

-No accident that God had the children of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years as oppose to 10, 20, or even 30 years.

-The number 40 in the Bible is the number of testing.

\*So, we see God led the children of Israel 40 years in the wilderness to test them.

-Well, you may ask how does all this apply to the Christian during the current church age or age of grace?

-If you think about it, as Christians on this earth, we are on a wilderness journey.

-The scriptures refer to Christians as pilgrims, sojourners, and strangers on this earth.

\*And like the children of Israel, we are waiting to go over the Jordan to possess the promise land.

-But the body of water we will cross is not the Jordan river but the great deep which separates the second and third heaven, the glassy sea. *in Rev.* *11:1-14*

-This will happen at the rapture when the Lord Jesus Christ will return just before the tribulation for both those who have died and those who are alive that have trusted Him only for eternal life.

-If you want more details on the rapture, please see I Thess. 4:13-18.

-The Promise land that we will cross over to will not be Palestine but Heaven, Beulah Land. Because all that are saved are promised a home in heaven.

-So, this morning the Lord wants us to remember why he tests us while we are awaiting His return.

\*Part of the testing process <sup>is</sup> at number 1:

- "To humble you" - See Deut. 8:2

\*How does the Lord humble you?

- He can humble you economically, financially -

- Look at Deut 8:3 - "Suffered thee to hunger"

\*The Lord can humble you by taking a job away!

- That would definitely "suffer you to hunger"! - Amen!!

- No money coming in, no groceries.

\*You see we sometimes forget if you have a job, it is because the Lord provided it for you.

The Bible tells us the Lord owns a cattle on a 1,000 hills.

- SEE Psalm 50:10-12.

\*Psalm 24:1 tells us - **"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."**

- In Colossians 1:16 - We are told about the Lord Jesus Christ:

**"For by him were all things created,..."**

- In Colossians 1:17, we are told concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

**"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."**

\*So, we see that the Lord owns everything and if you have anything it is because of Him.

- The Lord can humble us by taking away our health, so we can't work.

- If you have good health, able to get around, go to work it is a blessing from the Lord.

- Some folks say "Well, it is my right to work, to have a job."

- The only right you have is to die!!!

- The only reason you are alive and breathing today, is because the Lord allows it.

\*Why does the Lord "humble us"?

-See Deut. 8:10-18.

-It is to help us to remember!!!

-Help us to remember what?

-It is God who puts food on our table!

-It is God who puts clothes on our backs!

-It is God who provides the job!

-It is God who gives us good health!

-It is God who gives us a home!

-It is God who as it says in V15 -

**"Who leads us through this great and terrible wilderness  
were there are fiery serpents and scorpions."**

\*Did you ever go up against some of Satan's crowd?

-They are very much like fiery serpents and scorpions.

-In our wilderness journey on this earth, we are in a spiritual battle.

-Eph 6:12 - tell us - **"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."**

-Spiritual wickedness has made into high places:

e.g. the office of the president

-current administration is pro abortion,

-pro homosexuality.

-People say the character of man in the office not important and as a result we have a president who was a draft dodger, pot smoker, and alleged adulterer.

\*This battle is for real!!!

-The devil isn't some cute little red guy with a pitch fork and a tail. *-on a bottle of wit sauce -*

\*The Bible tells us "our adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

-So, the fiery serpents and scorpions are real don't kid yourself.

-But it is God who will get us through it!!!

\*God humbles us in the testing process to help us remember it was He as it says in V14:

-**"which brought thee forth out of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."**

-In other words, <sup>you</sup> ~~we~~ know if you study the Bible at all that Egypt is a picture or type of the world.

-And "house of bondage" is a picture of someone under the bondage of sin.

-God wants us to remember that it was Him that <sup>saved</sup> us through the shed blood of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-God wants us to remember that before we were saved that we were in bondage to sin.

-We were "dead in trespasses and sins"

-We walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air.

-We had the "spirit of the children of disobedience"

-Our destination was the lake of fire for eternity.

-The bottomless pit which is full of locusts that have power as scorpions, on this earth and torment man like a scorpion when he striketh a man.

-God humbles us, he wants us to remember <sup>that</sup> He saved <sup>us by</sup> ~~by~~ His grace.

\*We sometimes as Christians forget this and think that it is our works of righteousness which we have done.

-We get full of self.

\*Reason we forget who provides what we need and who saved us is ~~because~~: *found in Deut. 8:12-13.*

-As a result of this we read in V14 - "then thine heart be lifted up"

-Read V17.

\*You see in times of plenty we start to think that we are responsible for all of it. You know.

-The nice job

-The nice house

-The nice family.

-We lift up our hearts which is nothing but "pride", the same sin that brought Satan down.

-Remember, Satan wanted to be like God.

-He forgot who created him.

-Instead of giving God the glory, we start inserting the personal pronoun "I".

-"I did this" and "I did that".

-It can also apply to church growth.

-The Bible tells us we are to plant and water and God will give the increase.

-Well, <sup>over</sup> time we begin to think that not only do we plant and water but "we give the increase and not God."

-Instead of remembering it is the Lord who gives the increase and who saves folks.

-We forget the Bible says over in Eph. 2:8-9:

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."** - *We boast*

-We have a tendency to forget as it says in Deut. 8:18 -

-"...for it is he (God) that giveth thee power to get wealth."

-Remember, Paul said - "I can do all things through Christ which strentheneth me."

-But Oh! how we trust in that arm of flesh that fails, instead of leaning on the everlasting arms.

\*Sometimes when we are on the mountain top of our Christian walk,

-We forget the valley experiences.

-We instead stop looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

-We stop looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

-Instead we do as Lot did.

-Genesis 13 tells that when the Lord blessed Abram and Lot with increased cattle, that the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together. (Ge. 13:6)

-We see in Ge. 13:10 - "Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where"

-He had an earthly vision, he desired the well-watered plain of Jordan.

-Which was in the direction of Sodom and Gommorrah, where Lot and his family ended up in until the Lord destroyed it for its great wickedness.

-So often in times of great prosperity the Lord will humble us, when we lift our hearts up and forget the Lord.

\*You see the Lord humbles us so he will be able to use us for His intended purpose.

-Sometimes we get like the mother of Zebedee's children who wanted her two sons one to sit on the right hand and the other on the left hand of Jesus in His kingdom.

-Jesus said it was not for Him to give but His Father.

-You see sometimes we feel like that the Lord has saved us to be ministered unto.

-But <sup>Jesus</sup> gets us straight on this - SEE MT 20:25-28.

-All through the gospel Jesus stress to be his disciple one must be humble not only on the outside but also on the inside.

-As John the Baptist put it so well - "He must increase, but I must decrease."

\*You see the reason the Lord humbles us is because he trying to knock the world out of us.

\*Some of us it is easier to do than others.

\*The Lord can't use you until you are broken.

-Some he never uses because they struggle through the humbling process.

-And instead of seeing that God is testing them, they blame everything on Satan.

-These folks will say "Oh! it is just Satan.

\*Another reason the Lord Humbles us is found in Deut. 8:3 - begin at "fed thee with manna"

-You see the Lord wants you to be dependent on Him.

-You see the problem today is we <sup>have</sup> to many self-sufficient Christians.

-They have the attitude they don't need God's help.

-As a result they feel they don't need the sanctuary (or assembling together, coming to church),

-they don't need the saints - don't need the fellowship of other Christians,

-they don't need the scriptures and they don't need the Saviour to lead their lives.

-The Lord says he will take care of you - SEE MT 6:25-34.

-Notice in Deut. 8:4 - God not only gave them manna to feed them, but raiment that never waxed old, also good health - feet did not swell

-Can you imagine walking for forty years and your feet never ~~swelled?~~ swelling?

\*As the Lord says in Deut. 8:3 - He wants you to know most importantly of all -

-"that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live."

\*Where does one find every word that proceedeth <sup>out</sup> ~~pot~~ of the mouth of the LORD?

-The Bible

-In other words, you want to know how to survive in your wilderness journey here on this earth.

-Read and study your Bible!!!

-Feast on the Bread of Life, the Manna from above, the Lord Jesus Christ.

-You want to know how to put food on the table? read and study your Bible.

-You want to get over depression? - Read and study your Bible.

-You see that Bible is medicine cabinet, its employment security office.

\*Everything you wanted to know and were afraid to ask is in the Bible.

\*You want to get through times of temptation, when Satan is beating on your door?

-Use the word of God, that is what Jesus did - MT 4:4.

-Jesus ~~did~~ <sup>didn't</sup> pull out a machine gun and blast him away, *- two edge sword. quick / powerful*

-He blew him away with the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

-Remember, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

-That is what you are doing right now if saved,

-You are being led in the wilderness by the Spirit of God because as a believer, he dwells inside you.

-Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights - 40 is the number of testing.

-It says about Jesus in MT 4:2, he was "afterward hungered".

-Notice Jesus was in the wilderness during a period of testing, and he was tempted by the devil to seek other than godly solutions during this time.

-e.g. - turn the stones to bread - satisfy the flesh.



\*The same thing applies to you Christian, when you are saved and are being tested by the Lord, through humbling or whatever means God uses.

-Remember, Satan will tempt you to seek other than godly solution to deal with your difficulties.

-Be it selling out to the ways of the world, which is pictured by living on bread alone.

\*But remember what Jesus used the way to escape , the tried and true way - the Bible!!! - Amen.

\*Lastly, we want to see why the Lord tests us -

-See Deut. 8:2 - "to prove thee"

-To see what you are made out of.

-To know what is in your heart.

\*He wants to see if your all talk and no action.

\*You see there are many saved people but very few Christians.

-What I mean there are many folks who are saved and just that.

-They are not disciples of Christ.

-Notice the word disciple comes from the word discipline.

-Not many are living the discipline life for the Lord.

-Very few saved folks a living a Christ like life.

-I don't mean going around meek lowly with long hair and sandals.

-I mean allowing the Lord to have control of your self.

-Allowing the Lord to be on the throne of your heart.

\*The Lord tests you to see how great your faith is.

-He wants to see if your faith is tied to your circumstances or if they are independent of one another.

\*He wants to see if you are in for the long haul in your wilderness journey.

-Or are you scared off when a little persecution come your way because you are trying to live a godly life in Christ Jesus.

-Or do you give up the fight when your friends turn their backs on you for taking a stand for the Lord.

-Call you a heretic for believing the King James Bible is God's preserved, inspired, infallible word.

-The Lord wants to know are you only willing to be served or are you willing to be His servant, to minister to others.

-You know coming to church only Sundays isn't going to cut for Him. He needs all of you not just part of you.

-Can you imagine if he was only a part-<sup>time</sup>Saviour. Only saved part of the time not all the time.

-You would be left to chance and hope the day you called upon his name to save you that he was saving that day.

-Same way with you Christian you have to <sup>be</sup> consistent in your walk with the Lord.

-Believe me it takes discipline to do that.

-That is the problems with most Americans no discipline in their lives. We are so spoiled in this country.

-The Lord tests you to see what kind of Christian you are.

-Are you closet Christian who comes to Jesus by night.

-Or are you a Christian who will make up the hedge and stand in the gap before the Lord and intercede for a nation that is on its way to hell!!!

-Some folks are not satisfy will a small ministry or being in a ministry that is behind the scenes where you are not noticed.

-Like cleaning the bathrooms etc.

-Remember, you will never amount to anything for the Lord if you can't even be faithful with the little that he has given you to do.

\*Christian how do you expect the Lord to use you if you can't even be faithful the simple things like reading your Bible, praying, and attending church.

-You see the Lord doesn't just save you one day, and then the next day, puts you in a position of great responsibility.

-He has to train you, see if you are faithful with a little before He gives to alot.

-Remember, Paul got saved then was in Arabia for three years, before God started using Him.

-Remember Moses was called to deliver the children of Israel from the bondage in Egypt.

-But it wasn't until years later that God began to use Moses.

-He spent many years in the desert among the Midnities, he had to go through some stuff and be tested before the Lord used him in a mighty way.

-What would have happen if the Lord called Moses then next day, he tries to lead the children of Israel out?

-Disaster!!! - Moses needed to tested and trained for the race that was set before him.

\*You see the Lord has to test you, humble you, prove you and refine you, get rid of the dross, the impurities in your life before you can be used of Him.

-Christian, the question is can you take it.

-Or will look back to Egypt as children of Israel did when things get tough and say I wished we never left.

-Will you look back to world when things get tough and say, I wish I never left you, I wished I never got saved.

-Or will you say as Job said - (Job 13:15) - **"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him:"**

-During our time of invitation, Christian come to this old fashion altar and ask the Lord to give you the stuff that it will take to:

- fight the good fight
- to finish the course
- to kept the faith, not to give up.

\*Christian maybe you need to come to this altar this morning and rededicate your life to Lord.

-Tell the Lord, that you really haven't been living for Him.

-That you want so desperately to do that, that you turn your life totally over him.

-Ask Him to help you live godly in Christ Jesus.

-Ask Him to help you to present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto Him.

-Tell Him you don't just want to be saved.

-But be a Christian and live a disciplined life for Him.

-A true disciple of His.

-Tell Him you are tired of living in closet of Christianity and ask Him to give you get boldness in witnessing for Him, can you do that.

-Can you surrender your life over to Him.

**\*PLEA TO UNSAVED:**

**\*PLEASE STAND FOR PRAY -**