Does God Test People Today?

Genesis 22:1 says God tested Abraham by commanding him to offer Isaac. This study considers whether or not still God tests people today.

General Teaching about Tests

“Test” Can Be Used in a Good or Bad Sense.

To “test” means to examine, experiment, or prove. In the bad sense, Satan entices or seduces us to do wrong, resulting in spiritual harm. But God never tempts people in this sense (James 1:13).

In the good sense a test may examine someone to give them an opportunity to demonstrate character, integrity, etc., with the hope that they will do what is right, resulting in their benefit. Can you think of examples of good tests in everyday life (not spiritual tests) today?

Bible Examples in Which People Made Good Tests

Judges 6:39 – __________ tested God’s instruction by exposing a fleece overnight to dew.

1 Kings 10:1 – The ______________ tested Solomon’s wisdom with hard questions.

Proverbs 17:3 – Metal is tested to determine if it is ______________.

Daniel 1:12-14 – Daniel’s ______________ was tested to see if it was better than the king’s diet.

Luke 14:19 – A man who bought __________ wanted to test them.

This is the sense in which God tested Abraham.

(1 Samuel 17:39; Ecclesiastes 2:1ff)

Tests in the Old Testament

Old Testament Passages

Exodus 15:24-26 – When Israel __________________, God tested their obedience.

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 – Prophets who taught error were a test from __________.

Psalms 11:4,5 – God’s eyes behold, He tests the ______________.

Psalms 17:3 – You have tested my __________; You have tried me and have found nothing.

* Psalms 26:2 – Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my ______________.

* Proverbs 17:3 – Like silver and gold, but the Lord tests the ______________.

* Isaiah 48:10 – I have tested you in the furnace of ______________.

* Jeremiah 17:10 – The Lord searches the heart and tests ______________.


The Nature and Purpose of God’s Tests

Bible Examples of Tests Had the Following Characteristics

1) A command/requirement
2) A choice to be made (often difficult)
3) Success was possible, but so was failure.
4) An opportunity to demonstrate faithfulness to God.
5) God rewarded obedience and people learned important lessons.

Explain how each of the following examples had the above characteristics.

Genesis 22 (note verse 1) – God tested ______________ (Hebrews 11:17-19)

Exodus 16:4 (verses 14-30); Deuteronomy 8:2,16 – God sent ______________.

Psalm 105:16-22 (Genesis 50:20,21) – ______________ was sold as a slave and imprisoned.

Can you think of other examples that fit the pattern (Adam and Eve, Job, etc.)?
Tests in the New Testament

Tests We Must Make

2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine ___________ whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.
1 Timothy 3:10 – We must test men before they are appointed as ________________
1 John 4:1 – Test the spirits, because there are many ________________

Evidence that God Tests People in the New Testament

Zechariah 13:9 – God will refine the remnant and test them as ______________ is tested.
Matthew 4:1 – Jesus was led by the _______________ to be tempted by the devil.
Hebrews 2:18; 4:15 – Jesus was _______________ so He can aid us in our temptations.
John 6:5,6 – Jesus’ statement was intended to test _______________.
2 Corinthians 2:9; 8:8 – Paul tested the Corinthians to see whether they ________________.
1 Thessalonians 2:4 – Paul spoke, not to please men, but God who tests our ________________.

Ways God May Test People Today

Affliction, hardship, suffering

James 1:2-4 – Rejoice in _______________, because the testing of our faith benefits us.
1 Peter 1:6,7 – Just as fire tests gold, so our _______________ is proved by various trials.
Revelation 2:10; 3:10 – Suffering and trial would come to _______________. Those who were faithful until death would receive the crown of life.

Giving rebuke/discipline

2 Corinthians 2:4-11; 7:11 (1 Corinthians 5) – Paul instructed the church that he might put them to the _______________, whether they would be obedient in all things (verse 9). (Galatians 6:1)

Prayer

(This and other points below are not called “tests,” but they fit the characteristics of tests.)
Matthew 6:7,8 – God knows our needs before we ____________. So, why should we pray?

Baptism

Mark 16:16 – He who believes and is _______________ will be saved.
Acts 2:38 – Repent and be _______________ for the remission of sins.
Acts 22:16 – Be baptized and wash away your _______________.

Obedience

1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 16:1,2 – Jesus said to meet each first day of the _______________ to have the collection and the Lord’s Supper.
2 Corinthians 8:24 – Giving shows “the proof of our _______________”. It’s a test!
John 14:15 – If you _______________ me, keep my commands.
1 John 5:3 – This is the love of God, that we keep His ________________.

Conclusion

Hebrews 12:1 compares life to a ________________. So all of life is a test!

How will you respond to the tests God gives you every day in life? Have you submitted to the test of baptism? Are you passing the test of life?

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