



TESTS of the Wilderness

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July Outline

Dr. Michael J. Pangio's monthly outline for the month of July 2013

Tests of The Wilderness

- I. Important that we understand the purpose of the tests of the wilderness:
- A. they are **for preparing us to be able to properly handle the blessings, prosperity, success that as we enter our Destiny:**
1. Deut 8:1 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers.
2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.
3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you to know man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of The Lord”.
 2. God is preparing Israel for Destiny / entrance into their Promised Land, and in Vs 2 & 3 **The Lord gives Israel keys** on how to live in their destiny:
 - a. #1 “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe”
 - (1) Speaking of the Word of God..... “**Careful to observe**”
 - (a) **Def Careful:** attend to
 - (1) Read the word, Study the word, Renew your mind with the word, live the Word, be a doer of the Word of God
 - (b) **Results:** “That you may **live and multiple**, and **go in and possess** the land”
 - (1) This word “**live**” reveals to us the power that the word of God can have in our life
 - (a) **Def live:** nourish up, recover, repair, restore, revive, save be whole
 - (2) the power of the Word of God will cause us to **multiply**
 - (a) increase, enlarge, excel
 - (3) the power of the word of God will enable us to will **go in**
 - (a) **Def go in:** enter our God given destiny
 - (4) the power of the word of God will cause us to **possess...**
 - (a) **Def possess:** inherit & seize our promises & & destiny
destiny Take ownership of
 - b. #2 Key on how to live in destiny: Deut 8:2 “And you shall **remember** that the Lord your God led you
 - (1) Our **greatest challenge** is not found in the wilderness, it is found in our destiny when we experience **success and blessing & prosperity:**

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- (2) So God tells Israel when you enter your promise land, when you enter your destiny **REMEMBER** that The Lord your God led you:
- (a) Deut 8: 10 When you have **eaten and are full**, then you shall bless the Lord your God for the good land which He has given you.
11 “Beware that you **do not forget the Lord your God** by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,
- (3) If the devil cannot wipe you out in the wilderness he tries another tactic when we enter destiny, success & blessings Pride: **PRIDE**
- (a) Deut 8: 12 lest — when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;
13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;
14 when your **heart is lifted up**, and you forget the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock;
16 who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end —
17 then you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth.’
18 “And you shall **remember the Lord your God**, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
- (1) **Lucifer** fell when he entered into the fullness of his ministry of standing before the throne of God and leading heavens praise & worship
- (a) Isa 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!
how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
13 **For thou hast said in thine heart**, I will ascend into heaven, I will Exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of The congregation, in the sides of the north:
- (1) Lucifer forgot that his praise & worship ministry was all about him
(2) and forgot: it was God who created him, God who gave him the talents
God who anointed him, God who promoted him, God who put him in the position he was in.

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II. In order for us to avoid the same outcome as Lucifer / the devil: God prepares us in the Wilderness to enable us to properly handle success, blessings, prosperity when we enter into our Destiny:

A. Deut 8:2 And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.
3 So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.

1. Purpose of the wilderness:

a. “**to humble you**” be able to overcome the temptation of pride

b. “**to test you**”

(1) The test is threefold fold:

(a) #1 “To know what is in your heart”

(b) #2 “whether you would keep His commandments or not”

© #3 “make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives
By every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord”

(1) Life is found in the **Logos** Word of God ... from Genesis to Revelations
Applying the truths & principles of the scriptures to our life

(2) Life is found in the **Rhema** Word That God breathed promise to you
From the scriptures

(3) Life is found in the **Prophetic Word** spoken into our lives, that
Empowers us to “wage a good warfare” in the midst of spiritual warfare
According to 1 Tim 1:18

(a) Learning the spiritual principle that “man shall not live by bread alone;
By man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord”
Is so vital, that we see that the devil challenged Jesus in this very same
Area:

(a) Matt 4:1 Then was **Jesus led up of the Spirit** into **the wilderness** to
be **tempted of the devil**.

(1) Who led Jesus into the wilderness? The Holy Spirit

(2) to tempted Jesus? The devil

(a) we will meet the devil in your wilderness experience

(b) and by the power of the Word of God “it is written” ,,,,

We are to overcome the devil

(b) Matt 4: 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was
afterward an hungered.

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3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

B. **“To Test You”** / God will test our heart.....

1. Ps 26:2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; **try my reins and my heart.**

Jer 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, **I try the reins**, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Rev 2:23 I am he which **searcheth the reins and hearts:**

a. Each of us go thru this spiritual process, as the Holy Spirit searches our hearts and examines our motives.

(1) **God knows what is in our heart**

(2) but when The Lord tests us, **He enables us to see what is in our heart**

2. But as we go through this preparation process we must discern the difference:

a. Between **temptation to sin which comes from the devil**

(1) the devil is called the tempter in Matt 4:3 & 1 Thess 3:5

b. from when **God is testing**, searching, proving, examining our heart

(1) James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, **nor does He Himself tempt anyone.**

(a) The devil is the Tempter, God is the Tester:

(1) The Tempter / the devil wants to destroy us

(2) The Tester / God wants to make us **Christ like**

(a) Gal 4:19 My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until **Christ Is formed in you”**

III. When Israel came out from Egypt they had to pass thru the Red Sea:

A. 1 Cor 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,

2 all were **baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,**

1. Baptized into Moses in the cloud & in the sea..... Every believer is to be Water baptized

a. Baptism is a type and shadow of separation from past sins & dead works

b. Baptism is a separation from the enemy / powers of darknessdeclaring the devil no loner has power over us

c. Baptism is the cutting off of our past Our past no longer having power over us

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- d. Baptism is a type and shadow of our old man / carnal nature being buried in Christ
- B. Once Israel came through the this baptism in the Red Sea, they came into the Wilderness:
1. Note: it was not the devil who led Israel into the wilderness It was God
 - a. They first had to come into the wilderness because they were not ready to handle their destiny
 - b. they were still immature in their walk with God, not yet ready for certain levels of warfare
 - (1) Ex 13:17 Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.”
18 So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt.
 - (a) the same principles apply to the believer spiritually
 - (1) be it when first Born Again
 - (2) or when The Holy Spirit reveals to us the fullness of God’s plan for Our life & ministry.....
 - (a) when God gives you a promise from His word
 - (b) or you receive a vision or dream of your destiny
 - © prophetic words spoken over your life, confirming God’s destiny
 - (1) at that point in time in our life & walk with God:
 - (a) we are not mature to handle the responsibilities
 - (b) we are not ready for the spiritual warfare we will encounter
 - © so we are led by the Holy Ghost into the wilderness, to test our heart & prepare us
 - (3) We also see this wilderness principle in the life & ministry of **Jesus**
 - (a) Matt 4:1 **Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness**
 - (1) Jesus passed each test & only spent 40 days in the wilderness
 - (2) Israel failed every test and spent 40 years in the wilderness & one Generation died in the wilderness & never entered their destiny, Because they would constantly fail the tests they faced
 - (3) God does not intend for you to sat in the wilderness or to die there
 - (a) In the Songs of Solomon we see a prophetic picture of a bride... The bride of Christ who has gone thru her preparation and now Coming out of the wilderness:

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- (1) Song 3:6 Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant?

C. Truth about Tests we face in the wilderness:

1. but you will find that you are not prepared to face or fulfill the assignment God has for you
 - a. Instead, you will face two or more tests simultaneously in the next season
2. Example: An unprepared & immature believer tend to be **led by their feelings**:
 - a. which in turn causes us to be carnal instead of spiritual
 - b. walking in the flesh, instead of the spirit
 - c. walking by sight, instead of by faith
3. Example: An unprepared immature believer has a tendency to be guided by Their **emotions**
 - a. which will cause us to become soulish instead of spiritual and be led by the truth's and principles of the Word of God

D. Many believers try to avoid the Tests of the wilderness and attempt to Immediately **jump into the fullness of their destiny**, calling & ministry:

1. Failing to understand that... whom God calls:
 - a. He separates & He tests
 - b. Whom God Tests, He promotes
 - (1) Many receive the call, the vision, the dream, the prophetic word, the Promise:
 - (a) only to find they have no roots to withstand the trials & storms that come With destiny & the fullness of our calling & God's plan for our life and Ministry
- (1) God tests, tires the reins of our heart to empty us of self ambitions & Desires
 - (a) so He can fill those places in our heart with His dream. Grace, anointing & glory

E. When God gives us a revelation of our destiny, **we need to discern the time / The season**

1. we need to discern the process as to how the Lord is going to develop & Mature us for our destiny
 - a. NIV Eccl 8:5-6
Whoever obeys His command will come to no harm, and the wise heart will Know the proper time and procedure.
For there is a proper time and procedure for every matter,....”

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F. **There are three groups of people in the Body of Christ:**

1. **Group #1** This first group involves those who are coming out **of the battle**
For their soul
 - a. They have come out of Egypt / type & shadow of the world
 - b. came out from being under the bondage of slavery
 - (1) Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the **spirit of bondage** again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”
 - (a) now saved & came out from the bondage & slavery to sin
 - (b) now saved & no longer a slave to the taskmaster / Pharaoh: type & shadow of the devil
 - (a) But have been Born Again / received the Spirit of Adoption & Now call God their Heavenly Father
 - c. But at the same time this group **is now entering into their wilderness experience** to be developed & matured for their destiny

2. **Group #2** This second group in the Body of Christ is made up **of believers**
Who have spent a significant amount of time in the wilderness
 - a. they have been tested in various ways & God is moving them into a new season of life & ministry
 - b. They are entering into a new battle
 - (1) The battle to possess their **Promise Land / their Destiny**
 - (2) This is a different battle than the one you faced in Egypt
 - (a) In Egypt the **battle was for your soul**
 - (b) but this **battle is for your inheritance**
 - (1) This battle for your inheritance can only be fought & won by faith & obedience
 - (2) for those of you who are currently in this battle: what ever The Lord Says for you to do it & do not procrastinate
 - (a) When you obey the Word of God & voice of the Holy Spirit by faith
 - (1) The Lord will dispossess the powers of darkness
 - (2) & you will inherit your promise land

3. **Group #3** This third group is made up of believers who have been in the Wilderness **BUT: did not pass their wilderness tests**
 - a. due to their disobedience some of these believers have lost their spiritual sensitivity and struggle to discern the leading & voice of the Holy Spirit

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- (1) if not careful this group of believers can fulfill the same destiny as
The first generation of Israel in the wilderness
 - (a) who died in a wilderness experience and never entered their destiny,
Failed to see the Promises of God fully manifest in their life

IV. Progress and promotion come in times and seasons

- A. Whatever season you are going through right now is only temporary,
 - 1. Before God entrusts us with anything, He tests our heart to see whether or
Not we will be faithful
 - a. One of the major purposes of each test is to empty us of our selfish
ambitions & desires
 - b. so that God can fill these places of our heart with His purpose, dream
& vision
- B. Take time to examine your heart and see which of these three categories
apply To your life:
 - 1. Have you just been Born Again & now entering your wilderness your
wilderness preparation
 - a. so you may develop a humble heart & a teachable spirit & surrender to the
working of the Holy Spirit in your life
 - (1) & learn to yield to the hand of God as the Lord tries the reins of your
heart
 - 2. Have you been in the wilderness for a season & you have surrendered your
Life to God & passed the tests of the wilderness & now on the verge of
coming out of the wilderness & into your destiny:
 - a. It is not time to get slothful rather become fervent in spirit
 - b. Build yourself up spiritually and fight for your inheritance / take your
promise land / walk by faith into your destiny
 - 3. Or, are you in that category of believers who have failed to surrender to the
dealings of God in your life & have failed many of the spiritual tests of the
wilderness
 - a. Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a
cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so
easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
(1) time to lay some things downdwell.