

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove  
Faith Bible Church  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>  
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DAILY DOCTRINE: Testing, the Ten Tests of the Exodus Generation:  
Chronological overview of tests 1-9  
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/Tests-1-9.pdf>

1. In Numbers 14:22 the Lord said, “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.”
2. The Bible does not *specifically* list or number these tests in Exodus and Numbers. I have revised my previous list of the “ten tests” and put them in chronological order:
  - 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? Exod. 14:11-12.
  - 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. 16:2. The issue: Will the believer trust God during difficulties.
  - d. Test #4: **Grumbling-at-the-details-of-life test (retake of test)**, Exod. 16:20. The issue: Will the believer appreciate the blessings God has provided, or will he gripe and complain about uncomfortable details of life? We see in Exodus 16:1-20 the Israelites complaining about the testing in life and actually lying to themselves by imagining that it was much better back in Egypt. This would be akin to a Christian saying his life would be much easier as an unbeliever.
  - e. Test #5: **Grumbling-at-the-details-of-life test (retake of test)**, Exod. 16:27. The issue: Will the believer actually trust the Lord.
  - f. Test #6: **Temporal provision test**, Exod. 17:1-7. The issue: Will the believer trust God during times of privation (no water test)? The “no water” tests of life can be extremely stressful, especially for the believer who has an entitlement attitude. 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, He will provide.
  - g. Test #7: **Faith-obedience to truth test (also “worship test”)**, Exod. 32. The issue: Will the Israelites wait for their leader, Moses, to return with God’s Word? Failure to be faithful to Truth led to syncretistic worship of the golden calf.

- h. Test #8: **Hardship test**, Num. 11:1. The issue: Will the believer murmur and complain against the Lord and the plan of God when he is tested through the rough times? The Israelites had received so much grace: a relationship with eternal God, the Word of God, the prospect of the supergrace life, yet how quickly and easily they complained about the tests in details of life—all of which were designed by a loving God to create virtue in them so they would have the capacity to really enjoy the land that overflowed with milk and honey (blessings). The lesson for the believer is that God has a supergrace life in store for each of us. However, we must go through the tests/difficulties of life and pass the various tests through the provisions of the Word of God. Ever wonder if you are passing the tests of life? One way to check is to examine your attitude. Are you a complainer? If you are brave enough, ask your spouse or a friend. The answer may surprise you. What's more? What do you think God thinks about a complaining believer? Aren't we fortunate that God tells us: *Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled* (Num. 11:1).
- i. Test #9: **Lusting-after-blessings test**, Num. 11:4. The issue: Will the believer reject and despise God's testings because he is so occupied with the supergrace blessings? In this context the rabble (non-Israelites delivered from Egypt) were so focused on their supergrace blessings that they despised the period of testing God designed for them. All believers must be tested and it is required that these tests be passed before they have the capacity to enter into the supergrace blessings. If God would allow a believer without the virtue and capacity to move into his supergrace blessings, he would destroy himself. If you complain about your life when you are not in the promised life, you are not ready. If you complain about your life and think you could handle your supergrace blessings, you are self-deluded—so says the Word of God. The believer is warned not to crave after blessings for the sake of blessings:

**1 Corinthians 10:6** Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved.

In the Logos,

*Pastor Don*