

The Testing of Our Heart - Judges Pt 03

Ch 1) ISRAEL DISOBEYED -- Did not drive out the inhabitants of the land

Ch 2) THE LORD REBUKED THEM "I will never break my covenant with you, but you have not obeyed"

Ch 3) GOD USES EVEN OUR FAILURES TO SHAPE US→ YET NOT EXCUSING DISOBEDIENCE

- Jdg 3:1-4 NLT These are the nations that the LORD left in the land **to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars** of Canaan. 2 He did this **to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle**. 3 These are the nations: the Philistines (those living under the five Philistine rulers), all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the mountains of Lebanon from Mount Baal-hermon to Lebo-hamath. 4 **These people were left to test the Israelites—to see whether they would obey the commands the LORD had given to their ancestors through Moses.**

TO TEACH WARFARE - THEY COULD NEVER WALK IN THE PURPOSE OF GOD WITHOUT WAR
THE LORD IS A MAN OF WAR

- Exo 15:3 The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.
- Psa 144:1 Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.

WE MUST BATTLE THE FLESH

- Rom 8:13 ESV For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

WE MUST BATTLE THE WORLD

- 2Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are **not waging war according to the flesh**. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to **destroy strongholds**. 5 We destroy **arguments** and every **lofty opinion** raised against the knowledge of God, and take every **thought** captive to obey Christ,

WE MUST BATTLE THE DEVIL

- 1Pe 5:8-9 Be sober-minded; be watchful. **Your adversary the devil** prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith...

TO TEST OBEDIENCE

A test that is physical and temporary (bread) teaches something spiritual and eternal (word)

- Deu 8:2-3 NLT Remember how the LORD your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and **testing you to prove your character**, and **to find out whether or not you would obey his commands**. 3 Yes, he humbled you by letting you go hungry and then feeding you with manna, a food previously unknown to you and your ancestors. **He did it to teach you** that people do not live by bread alone; rather, **we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD**.
- Rom 5:3-5 Not only that, but we **rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that **suffering produces endurance**, and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, and hope does not put us to shame.
- Jam 1:2-4 Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet **trials of various kinds**, for you know that the **testing of your faith produces steadfastness**.

SUMMARY Kingdom suffers violence, violent take it by force, Intense pursuit and intense opposition
ENCOURAGE TO FIGHT UNTIL AT THE END WE CAN SAY I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT

- 1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith...
- 2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

TRIALS - Ask - Lord what is it that you are trying to work in my life, step into obedience