

THE TEST (2)

By Keith Greer

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” (Romans 15:4)

We have a test today as well.

Through humanism, people will tell you today that we are our "own gods" and can grow to become like the God of heaven.

Even among Christians, there are those that have allowed themselves to follow the gods of TIME, MONEY, POWER, or SELFISH DESIRES.

One who believes that you, or anything else, can be as powerful, wonderful or full of as much wisdom as God, then put your "gods" to the test. Can they answer your prayers, desires, and needs? Will those things that you have put your faith, hope, and confidence in pass "The Test"?

When the prophets of Baal sacrificed to him, " ...But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention." (1 Kings 18:29) Could it be we are as stubborn and unbelieving as the children of Israel?

We are told in Hebrews that, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible." (Hebrews 11:1-3) Look at the conclusion drawn by the Hebrew writer. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

God has commanded us to become one of his children (Matthew 18:3; Mark 16:16), put on Christ (Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27), and remain faithful until death (1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10). If we are obedient to His will, God has promised us a home in heaven with Him for eternity.

God's people today are "tested" constantly to doubt the love and power of God in our lives. Satan wants us to trust in ourselves more than in God and His promises. Yes, adversity of all types may invade our lives and cause us to struggle with difficulties not of our own making. Do we throw in the proverbial towel, give up, or worse – begin to doubt in God's providential care and watch over us? Do not be deceived – the threats to destroy one's faith are real and they can happen at any time in various situations we find ourselves in.

Israel's problem was they allowed themselves to forget all they had not only SEEN but received from the Lord. Every promise God had made them He delivered upon! So long as they remained

faithful to God and His covenant no enemy could oppress them or overcome them. Only when they depended upon their own abilities did they find sorrow, heartaches and disappointments.

Do you believe in the true and living God? If so, then you will not let anyone or anything keep you from serving Him. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:30,31)

Dear reader, Israel passed "the test" on Mount Carmel but failed the Lord because they forgot what they had learned on that day. Will we do better than they did? ***