

Fueling Station 4: Life is a Test
Pitfall: God wants me to be happy



Key Introduction

Does God want us to be Holy or Happy? Are they diametrically opposed or symbiotic? When Jesus says “blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” this comment seems paradoxical like all other instructions about His kingdom. I believe once we recognize how transient this life really is and how we are to view our home here as living in a tent instead of a house, this will help us to view Gods instructions from the correct perspective.

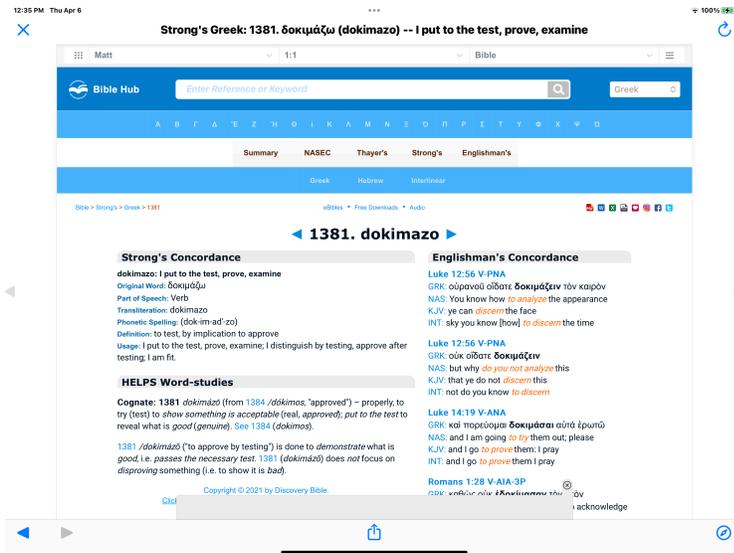
“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-3, 10 ESV

Key Unlocked

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “As we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

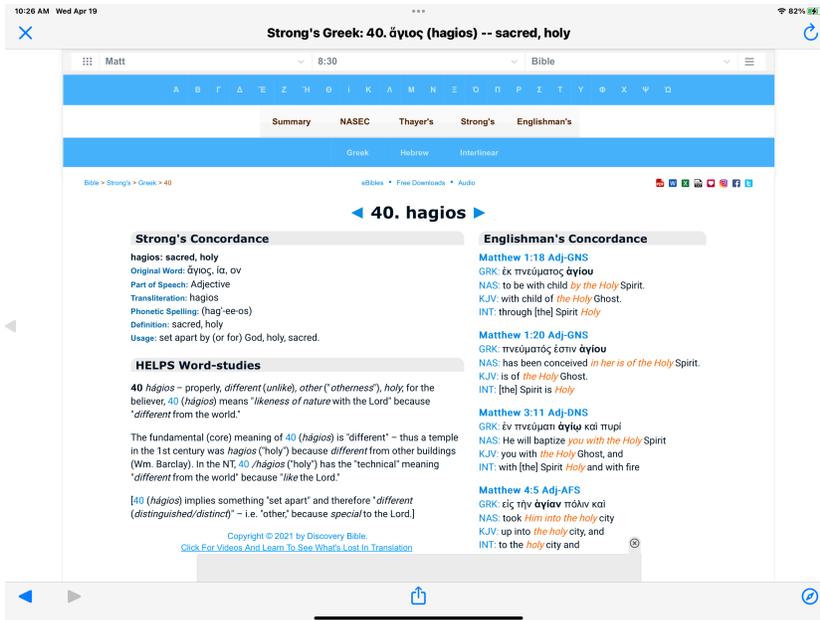
*test



“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,”

1 Peter 1:6-7, 13-17 ESV

*holy



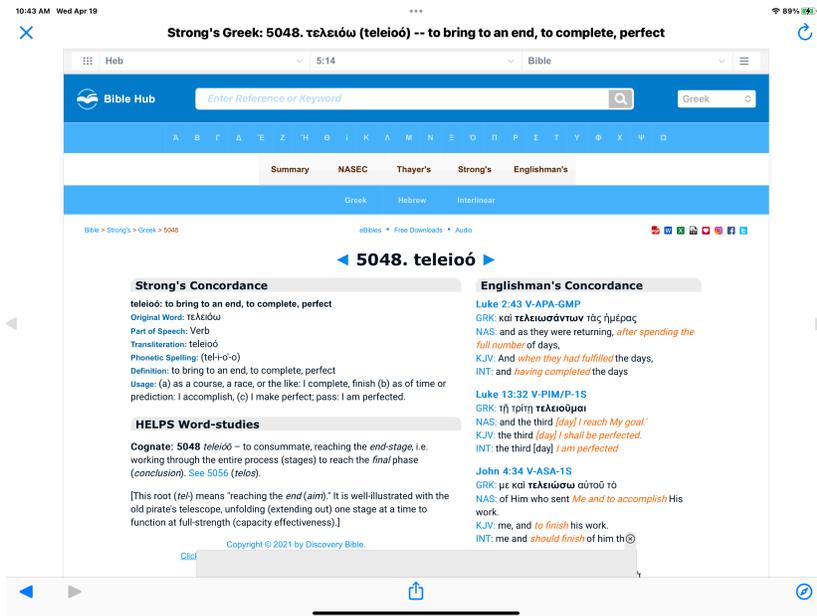
The purpose of behind testing is to be “found” Holy when Jesus reveals Himself to set up His final rule of the earth. To be found “in Him” was a common theme used by the Apostles to determine who would receive the inheritance and enter the kingdom. Those declared to be experientially Holy or “set-apart” at that time will be “set-apart” and useful for The Master. The secondary benefit would also be seen in other passages concerning being able to “enter your rest” at that time also. This would be a “rest” from all the testing and refining in the “wilderness” wanderings.

“and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:9, 12, 14 ESV

*This prize is contingent upon us being “found” in him. Paul is reminding us that there is an upward “invitation” that is dependent upon our “maturity” or perfection that we are to be “pressing” into! Remember this is the “goal” not the guarantee before Christ returns.

*perfect



“So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.”
Romans 8:12-14, 18-19 ESV

*This is a Key moment in all creation when God chooses His firstborn sons to rule and reign with Jesus at His return!

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”
James 1:2-4, 12 ESV

*It is important to see the exact same theme written from Peter, Paul, and James because where 2-3 witnesses are a matter is confirmed!

We must pass our “testing” and not put Christ to the “test”:

“Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”

1 Corinthians 10:5-6, 9, 11-12 ESV

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.”

2 Corinthians 13:5-10 ESV

*Note even Paul wants to pass the “test”. Paul is always concerned that the members of the body of Christ will fall short in passing the “test”. He encourages us to give ourselves regular examinations in order to confirm that we are continuing in the faith!

“As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.”

2 Corinthians 7:9-12 ESV

*Daily examination and repentance are key to running a faithful race and receiving the inheritance of the kingdom!

Contemplation/Application

1. How normal is it in our every day lives to be tested?
2. Reflect upon on all the applications that man has set up that are dependent on separating us out through testing? How many areas of your life were dependent on passing or failing a test of some kind?
3. Mankind can be unjust in his testing regiment but God cannot. In Galatians chapter 6 God says he will “not be mocked, what ever a man sows, that will he also reap”. What will the implications of this mean for you at the judgement seat of Christ?
4. Have you ever thought about “examining” and “testing” yourself? Explain.

*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

“what we do in this life echoes for all eternity.”

Gladiator

15 Bible verses about Refining

25 Bible verses about God Testing People