

## Judges, Sermon #8

Judges 2

Last week we learned that the judges were successful in accomplishing the task for which they were raised up, but the people, upon rescue, returned to their old sinful ways and worse – vs. 19

Tonight we will see the response of God to continued sin: He judges and tests His people

I have entitled our message “The Schoolhouse of God”

Judges 2:20

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word

Judges 2:20-23

Let us pray

You may be seated

## The Schoolhouse of God

God has great compassion for His people – He is a merciful God, a loving God  
But He was angry at their sins

Why were God's people afflicted?

Greatly distressed – vs. 15

There was a response from God to the continued sin of Israel

God judged and tested His people

When there is a stubborn heart that refuses to give up sin, it angers the Lord – arouses  
His fury

Vs. 12, 14, 20

God took three actions against this sinful behavior

First, God leveled strong charges!

They had broken covenant – vs. 20 – and played the harlot – vs. 17

They had not listened – vs. 20 – but had willfully and deliberately disobeyed God

#2 – God pronounced judgment to be executed upon His people – vs. 21

Israel rejected God, turned away from God

God's help – gone; God's protection – gone; victory – nope

#3 – Now, God brought these judgments to test His people to prove who the real  
believers were – vs. 22

Constant pressure of enemies would drive true believers to turn to God and false  
believers to harden their hearts

God tests us – if we continue in sin, God will chastise us to see if we really mean our  
profession

Turn over to I Peter 1:7

Period of testing

Vs. 6 – though now for a season – it may seem forever

In the lives of some historical Biblical characters – the need for a testing time seems greater than in others

As we look back at these saints, we discover that the mightiest of God's people are those who faced the severest trials

Vs. 6 – the testings are of all kinds – vs. 6e – manifold

Purpose of testing – purifying and proving – vs. 7 – until we reflect the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Testing – examination to prove this medical student can now be a doctor

Trials prove the reality of one's faith

So, God will test us to prove our faith is genuine and to grow our faith

Vs. 23 – God left some nations for Israel to conquer – they were left so Israel had to demonstrate belief, faith – obedience

Some of the things in our lives are placed there so that we can demonstrate our loyalty to God – obedience

Secondly, God will test us – to expose any wickedness in us

Psalm 139:23-24, *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

#3 – God will test us – in order to purge and purify us

Malachi 3:3, *“And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.”*

#4 – God will test us – in order to humble us and prove whether or not we will keep His commandments

Deuteronomy 8:2, *“And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.”*

#5 – God will test us in order to prove just how much we love Him

Genesis 22:1-2, *“And it came to pass after these things, that God did test Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, ‘Behold, here I am.’ And He said, ‘Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”*

#6 – God will test us in order to strengthen our endurance and perseverance

Turn over to James 1:2-3

Some trials come because we are humans – sickness, accidents

Other trials come because we are Christians – Satan fights us – the world opposes us

And this makes for a life of battle

James 1:2e – varied – personal: first week of pastoring – tragic death – a lady dies of cancer – Great Grandma passes away

James 1:2 – count it all joy

The Israelites should have said – “Praise the Lord! We got enemies in the land.”

Vs. 3 – faith is always tested

God always tests us to bring out the best – Satan tempts us to bring out the worst.

The testing of our faith proves that we are truly born again

Testing works for us – not against us

Trials rightly used – help us to mature

James 1:12

#7 – God will test us in order to prove our faith in God

*John 6:5-6, "When Jesus then lifted up His eyes, and saw a great company come unto Him, He saith unto Philip, 'Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?' And this He said to prove him."*

God takes the times of troubles and makes them a positive – Israel was not only tested but also trained

Turn back to Judges

Judges 3:1-2

Israel had disobeyed His command; but in His infinite longsuffering, His next purpose was that their disobedience might still be overruled for good . . . that where sin had abounded, grace might much more abound.

The Schoolhouse of God

Let us stand for closing invitation.