

**GOSPEL**  
of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

**Acts 15:10-12**

**Do Not Test God**

by *Bob DeWaay*

April 5, 2020

**Do Not Test God**

**Acts 15:10 (NASB)**

“Now therefore **why do you put God to the test** by placing upon the neck of the disciples a **yoke** which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”

- Testing God in the Bible means to doubt His promises and despise His provision
- Jesus cited Deut. 6:16 in Luke 4:12
- Deut. 6:16 references Massah (Exodus 17:7)
- Deut. 10:16 commands circumcising the heart and in Deut. 30:6 God promises to do it!

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      ggf.church      2

**Echoes From Exodus**

**Exodus 17:2, 3 (NASB)**

Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? **Why do you test the LORD?**” But the people thirsted there for water; and **they grumbled against Moses** and said, “Why, now, have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?”

- “Test” LXX is *peirazo*; Luke 11:16; Acts 5:9; 15:10
- “Grumbled” is used in Luke 5:30 (Pharisees)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      ggf.church      3

**God Still Provides**

**Exodus 17:5-7 (NASB)**

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and **take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile**, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. He named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because **they tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us, or not?”**

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      ggf.church      4

**Saved Through Grace Alone**

**Acts 15:11 (NASB)**

But we believe that **we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus**, in the same way as they also are.

- “But” contrasts the “yoke” of verse 10
- “saved through grace” is parallel to “cleansing their heart by faith” of verse 9
- Jews and Gentiles are saved “in the same way”
- Paul wrote about grace and faith in regard to salvation in Ephesians 2:8

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      ggf.church      5

**Mighty Deeds Among the Gentiles**

**Acts 15:12 (NASB)**

All the people **kept silent**, and they were listening to Barnabas and Paul as they were relating what **signs and wonders God had done** through them among the Gentiles.

- Silence implied that the debate was settled
- Paul and Barnabas had not required circumcision and God validated their message
- Signs and wonders accompanied the establishment of Israel as God’s people (Deut. 4:34; 26:8 and Exodus 7:3)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship      ggf.church      6