God, Who Test The Hearts

Kyle Pope · 1 Thessalonians 2:4

INTRODUCTION

- Why did God reveal the Bible as he has?
- Why didn't God simply reveal Scripture in a way that it could not possibly be misinterpreted?
- Scripture does not directly answer that question as to why God revealed his word exactly as he has.

1 Why Did Jesus Speak in Parables?

Matthew 13:10–17; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Jeremiah 17:9–10

- Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- Notice it's not God that closed their eyes, they have closed their eyes.
- The parables are given in a form so that the one who has an open and discerning heart will receive it.
- Could it be that the reason God has revealed his word in the way that he has exactly the same reason that Jesus taught in parables as a means to test the hearts.

2 Why Did God Give the Sabbath Manna Law?

Exodus 16:1–4; Deuteronomy 8:16

- I will rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and shall gather a certain quota every day that I may test them.
- God knew what they would do, but God gave them this opportunity to either follow what he says or follow their own wishes.
- Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that he might humble you, and that he might test you to do you good in the end.
- When we are open to it, will be for our best interest, will do us good in the end.

3 Why Did God Speak From the Mountain?

Exodus 20:18–21

- Moses said to the people, do not fear, for God has come, to test you, and that his fear may be before you, so that you may not sin.
- Moses says he did that to test you. So that you will fear him so that you won't sin. I think we need that today.
- The God of all creation who has spoken and revealed his will to me, I want to do it to the uttermost.

4 Why Did God Make Israel Wander in the Wilderness?

Deuteronomy 8:1–2; Psalm 66:8–12

- This period of time that we live through is that testing ground.
- The Lord your God led you all the way these 40 years in the wilderness to humble you and test you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.
- For you, O God, have tested us. You have refined us as silver is refined.
- I reject the word of God because of my preconceived notion, the problem isn't with the word of God. The problem is with my heart.

5 Why No Instantaneous Judgment on Those Teaching Falsehood?

Deuteronomy 13:1–5

- For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul.
- It's not saying God's the one putting the falsehood in the prophet's mind to test you to see. No, I think it is the sense of allowance.
- It becomes even more clear when there are those that have the courage to follow what the Bible says when it's not popular.
- I'm going to follow your will, whether it's easy for me or not, whether it feels natural to me or not.

6 Why Does God Allow Wicked People to Exist?

Judges 3:1–4

- Now, these are the nations which the Lord left. that he might test Israel by them.
- God didn't intervene and force them to do what they should have done to begin with. He allowed it.
- They were left that he might test Israel by them to know whether they would obey the Lord.

THE CHALLENGE

As you recognize that the word of God is set forth to test your heart and my heart, may we each pass that test by humbly committing ourselves to do all that we find within God's word.

MY NOTES