

John 17 - Trials & Testings: Refining Discernment

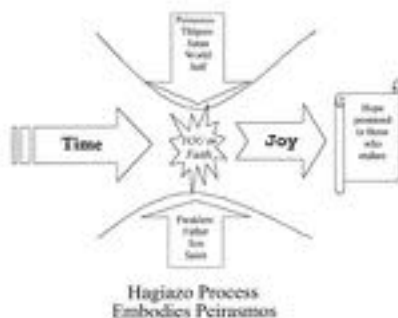
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John 6

Definition of Trial or Testing

- Bible defines concept of trial, testing, and temptation
 - Hebrew (יָסָה) - Testing to determine truth of self
 - Greek (πειρασμός/ πειράζω) - Same as Hebrew
- The trial or testing (hereafter called peirasmos) seeks to determine the truth about the person/object being assayed (purification of silver or gold) that God knows (omniscient) but you do not (1y 66:10-12; Je 6:27-30; 1Pe 1:7; Re 3:18)

Hagiazo - Peirasmos Schematic

- Peirasmos integral to the Hagiazo Process (Make Holy or Sanctification)
- Process defines Historical Dispensationalism
- God's Command-Man's Failure-God's Response



God Sets the Standard

- The ultimate standard for man is God's righteousness
 - God searches hearts testing soul for person's sake (Jc 1:10)
 - Goal: realize person fails without reliance on God (Dn 8:1-3)
- He does not peirazo {test} one with evil causing sin (Jc 1:11)
 - God sets the immovable standard in His word
 - People tempted by their own sinful {fleshly} desires and gratification results in sin leading to death {Total cost} (1k 14:25-31; He 11:24-26)

Lucifer Seeks Standard Violation

- Lucifer, The Satan {Accuser}, uses evil (Jc 1:12)
 - God sets the limits and Lucifer *determines* the means
 - He uses the world system and the flesh as his allies
- Lucifer via peirasmos shows God each one's sinfulness
 - Goal: Prove God author of sin to prevent his judgment'
 - His attack: Lust of flesh, Lust of the eye and Pride of life (Jc 2:16)

God's Goal for Peirasmos

- Peirasmos separates lost from saved; lost hates the saved as their sinfulness revealed, without excuse (2Co 2:14-17)
 - That no flesh may *glory* before Him; works-based (1Co 1:26-28)
 - Peirasmos reveals necessity for faith in God alone (Jc 1:14)
 - Lost retreat to hide their sinfulness from God (Ro 1:18-32; Re 6:12-17)
 - Those God called are burdened by sin, repent & saved (Ps 51:17; 1k 18:9-14)

Peirasmos Builds Discernment

- Peirasmos builds spiritual maturity, Christ-likeness
(Ro 8:16-30; 12:2)
- Man and woman wanted to know good and evil (Ge 3:4-6)
- Law developed knowledge of sinfulness (Ro 7:7-9)
- The Bible builds wisdom, how to use knowledge
(Ps 33:6-9; Pr 9:10; 15:33; He 5:11-14)
- Mature learn through peirasmos to know good from evil, beginning with themselves; life-long endeavor
(Mt 21:5; 1Co 13:12; He 5:14)

Peirasmos Hagiazo Process in Action

Now these things happened to them as an example,
but they were written down for our instruction...
(1Co 10:11)

Man and Woman (Ge 2:16-17; 3:1-7)

- Issue: Can the flesh resist sin alone {Works}? (1Co 1:29)
- God's Command - Tree of Knowledge - Inherent in disobedience rather than a function of the tree {Food}
- God tells man {Adam}, who tells woman, who is confronted by Dragon, who promotes disobedience
- Woman eats, entices Man to eat and they know sin expressed as guilt and physical misuse of bodies; thus, they obtained knowledge of good and evil (Ge 3:14)

Cain - Messiah Wannabe (Ge 4:1-10)

- Issue: Can sinful man control his sin alone? (1Co 1:29)
 - Cain - Play on Hebrew word *gotten* (אָנָן); i.e., messiah (Ge 3:14-16)
 - Raised as *The Chosen One* to defeat sin and Lucifer
 - God refused his offering but accepted Abel's {Worthless}
 - Cain angry; God told him he must control his sin
 - Failed, killed Abel, rejected God, developed first society
 - Thus, he was the first antichrist - Man of Lucifer (Re 13:1-6)

Hebrews in the Wilderness (Tent)

- Issue: Can people chosen of God live without God? (1Co 1:29)
 - God peirasmoi the Hebrews in the wilderness revealing their sin and need for dependence on Him (He 3:7-19)
 - They peirasmoi God finding Him lacking based on their needs; He met their needs but sent leanness in the soul (Ps 106:6-33 (vs 15))
 - They are our examples to not peirasmoi God; but we do (1Co 10:6-12)

Job-Peirasmos Brings Salvation

- Issue: Can man be saved by self righteousness? (1Co 1:29)
 - Book shows spiritual workings of peirasmos (Job 1-2)
 - God highlights Job as righteous while Lucifer accuses both Job and God of duplicity, God bribed Job (Job 1:1-6)
 - God allowed Lucifer to use both physical means and worldly wisdom {friends} to peirasmos Job {Election}
 - Finally God confronts Job who repents and is saved (Job 32:1; 34:5-37; 38:1-40:6-9; 42:1-6)

Peter–Peirasmos Reveals Flesh

(Lk 22:31-34)

- Issue: Can man control his sin by religion? (1Co 1:29)
 - Can Peter, pillar of apostles for three years, resist sin?
 - Satan (Accuser) demands to grind Peter, like Job (Job 1:2)
 - Jesus allows this to reveal weakness of Peter's flesh
 - Indicates Peter will repent becoming humble in Christ (1Pe 5:6-11)
 - Peter illustrates "why" peirasmoi – Glory for salvation belongs to God alone, we are totally dependent on Him

Jesus–Paschal Lamb Peirasmos (He 1:14-18; 4:15)

- Issue: Will Messiah control sin by the power of the Spirit or the will of the flesh? (1Co 1:29; Ro 8:14)
 - Jesus came in the flesh as man (100%) to die for sinners
 - Because He had flesh He had peirasmos as the Paschal Lamb (Examined four [justice] days for sin) (Ex 12:1-6)
 - He had no sin; thus, He was an acceptable sacrifice evidenced by His resurrection (1Co 15:20-28; 2Pe 1:16-18)

John's Gospel Context

- John builds to this crescendo as Christ defines both Himself and the New Covenant of salvation
 - Begins with *bread* and ends with *bread of Heaven*
 - Begins with a crowd over 10,000 people and ends with twelve, one of whom is of Satan (Judas, man of the city) (Cain, brother of Abel; first against Christ (Arch-deal) Ge 4:12)
- This clarifies Christ's mission given in Opening Hymn (Jo 1:14-18)

Spread Across Four Gospels

- These events are so vital all four gospels cover them
 - The events are not mirror images; each gospel gives some nuance giving us greater understanding
 - Clearly, Christ is God, the *I Am*
 - He has command over spiritual and natural elements
 - Thus, He is God; however, He also endures peirasmoi as the Paschal Lamb

Man Without God Fails Peirasmoi

- Crowd sees Him as *The Prophet*; Messiah, Conqueror
 - They fit Him into their worldview seeking to crown Him
 - They do not hear His message but crave His miracles
- Most of His disciples also see Him as the expected One
 - They cannot accept His message of *bread and blood*
 - Many fall away because He does meet their expectations

Lucifer Present Throughout

- Lucifer's invisible hand behind the scenes offers an alternative path than the stauros
 - Messiah came to preach the Father's Gospel and then die to fulfill the terms of the Gospel for believers
 - Satan offers rewards now, in the flesh, without God
- Lucifer active today in every aspect seeking to empower the flesh proving God created man and angels to fail

The Events

- Events preceding John Chapter Six
 - Apostles had been sent out preaching the Kingdom, authenticating the message by power over demons (Mk 6:7-13)
 - John Baptist recently executed by Herod (Lk 9:7-9)
 - Upon the return of the apostles Jesus retires to a desolate area to recuperate from their experiences
 - Apostles excited by power over demons (pride) rather than their salvation, source of true power (Lk 10:19-20)

The Setting

- Geographical context
 - Upper area of Galilee
 - Sparsely inhabited
 - Near Sea of Galilee
- Some events occur on sea
- Other events occur in towns of Galilee



Understanding the Context

- These events occur later in Christ's ministry
 - Jews failed to recognize Him as biblical Messiah
 - This signals fundamental change from the Kingdom of God message to the Paschal Lamb message
 - He has the stauros in view
- We must understand this change in perspective to grasp Christ's dialogue in subsequent chapters