

## **PROVING GOD THE WRONG WAY, PSALM 95:8-11**

Let us go to Psalm 95:8-11, that we might find our thought for the day. And our thought for the day is proving God the wrong way. Now, there is a right way to prove God and that is by paying tithes in a right spirit with the right confidence and a right attitude and a right respect for God's Nature. Then, there is a wrong way to prove God, that is with an evil heart, an evil intent and a disrespect for God's Nature. Trying to place God in a difficult situation because we think we might expose Him to a situation which He cannot handle, which He cannot provide for, which He cannot take care of.

The Word says here:

Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest (Psalm 95:8-11).

Now, here is a group of people that proved God the wrong way. They put Him to the test, thinking that they would prove some error, some illusion, some false thing within God. And their question was: "Can God provide a table in the wilderness?" and they had an evil intent in their heart, their faith was not holy, was not pure, was not right. So their suspicion was, "Can God really provide a table? Can God give us something that will strengthen us? Does He have the right kind of substance day after day to lead us to Canaan's Land? Does He?" It was suspicion against God's Nature. They proved God all right. Do you know what God did to that group? He let them stay in the wilderness forty years and fed them day after day for forty years to prove their evil intent that indeed He could provide a table in the wilderness, not only to lead them to Canaan's Land, but as long as He desired to let them live. So He proved it to them for forty years that He could provide a table in the wilderness.

So, beloved, oh my, let us take a lesson, let us take heed, let us take warning from this evil group here lest we find ourselves in a similar attitude and a similar disposition. “Can God get me out of this situation? Can God heal my body? Can God provide for my spirit? Can God provide for my soul? Can God provide for my body? Can God take care of my financial needs?” Be careful, beloved, lest God put you in a difficult situation and prove to you over and over, very many days, that in deed, He can take care.

So to prove their evil intent toward God from the beginning we see their attitude in the seventeenth chapter of Exodus when there was no water supply there. The Bible says here that the people began to chide, that is, blame and reprove and upbraid and scold with Moses.

Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt [or prove] the LORD? (Exodus 17:2).

In other words, “Why do you prove God with this class of attitude?” They did not come and say at first that they were thirsty. They did not come and plead their cause in the proper way. They came, and they were angry because there was no water. Beloved, do not come to God with that kind of attitude and anticipate to get the right kind of answer that will be a blessing to you that you can appreciate and enjoy. They did this time after time. When they were thirsty, and when they were hungry, they came with a murmuring hateful angry attitude toward God and even though God met their need, they could not appreciate what God gave.

So when we prove God the wrong way, we are never able to enjoy what God does give when we even prove Him. So the only way we can enjoy anything is to prove God with the right spirit, with the right attitude, knowing in advance and giving Him credit in advance for being a righteous, holy, just God and prove Him from that good, right, holy attitude. Then when God does meet your need, you will be grateful. You will be blessed. You will enjoy what you proved God to

get.

So they proved in the wrong way. Yes, later, the people said in verse three here:

And the people thirsted there for water; [In other words, God purposely withheld the water] and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? (Exodus 17:3).

They did not come in the beginning and present their thirst to God. They came and presented their anger to the servant of God. Moses told them, “You are not really blaming me. You are not really proving me. God is the One you are tempting. God is the One that you are proving.” So they were proving God, tempting God, trying to make God bow down and join to their angry, bad, ugly, evil will. So God let them go then until they really did get thirsty because through this God proved Moses also. Then, finally, Moses’ ugly attitude came out. You know, sometimes we look at other people when they are ugly. And we say, “Well, I will never be like that. I would never do that.” But we find that when the test and the trial increases, we find ourselves usually behaving just like anyone else. Likewise, did Moses here.

So Moses goes to God and cries out. And He said, “What am I going to do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” Which Moses began to accuse then the people to God. The people were not ready to stone him. And to prove that, God said to Moses, “Pick up your rod and go out in front of all the people. Go on before the people. Let us see if they are going to stone you or not.” So Moses did and took the rod and went up to Mount Horeb as God had told him and smote the Rock which was Christ. Because in First Corinthians, the tenth chapter, and verse four, the Bible says:

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ (I Corinthians 10:4).

So God took the spiritual invisible water of the Rock. the Christ, the Word, and poured it out

and made it visible, physical water that the children of Israel could drink.

And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted [or proved] the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not? (Exodus 17:7).

Is He really here? Is He really omnipresent? Is He really an omnipresent God? Is He really an omnipotent God? Is He really an omniscient God? Beloved, that is the wrong way to prove God. You do not prove on that side of the Truth. You step up on that Truth that He is a holy God, He is an omnipresent God. He is an omnipotent God! He is an omniscient God! That is, He has all knowledge, all power, and all presence. He knows all about your needs. He has all the power to meet your needs and He is present there to meet them right now, and so we have to begin, if we are going to prove God from that place of Truth, to prove Him in the right way.

Let it be a lesson to us. Let it be an example that we take heed that we not prove God in the wrong way and suffer forty years, as it were, as the children of Israel did, proving Him the wrong way.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for thy Word that indeed is a light to warn us, LORD, that we can take heed, that we need not follow the evil mistakes and footsteps of those that have gone the wrong way. LORD, we pray today that You will enlighten us and teach us that we might take heed and warning from Your Precious Word today, that we might not prove You in the wrong way because we pray in the Precious, Lovely Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ☩