

Passing the Final Test

Rev. 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

I attended a gardening school program. At the end of the program, each student had to pass a test. I receive a score of 100 on the test. After I had taken the test, the instructor made an observation, to which he asked me the following question: Everyone that takes the test score at least a 90. What can I do to make the test more challenging?

This account serves as an introduction to the topic of this pamphlet, the sealing and the coming trial/test that is to come upon the earth as foretold in Rev. 3:10, 7:3, 13:16-17. The study of this question will begin with my answer to the instructor's question above.

What is your purpose for giving the test? Should not the purpose be to allow one to demonstrate his knowledge and mastery of a subject, in this case gardening? Further, from God's perspective in Matt. 11:30, Jesus stated For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. The concepts and precepts concerning the subject matter gardening are simple. In the light of these facts, the real question should be, why did not everyone get a score of 100?

When Adam and Eve sinned, they disobeyed God. The law of God demands perfect obedience to it. God cannot clear the guilty (Exo. 34:7, Nah. 1:3). Once Adam sinned, the potential forever exists that Adam might transgress God's law sometime in the future. Adam's credibility was destroyed, lost

forever. However, We know that nothing is impossible with God. God had a plan to redeem man and restore man's credibility through the gospel.

The Sealing: Revelation 7

Rev. 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God...3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea...till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

One may ask what does the sealing have to do with the test? What is the seal? When does one receive this seal? Below is the definition of the word seal, the Greek word G4972 and Hebrew word H2368 from which the word seal is translated, and the verses where the G4972 and H2368 are found so one may get a contextual understanding of the word.

Seal, noun. 1a : something that confirms, ratifies...GUARANTEE, ASSURANCE b (1) : a device...used...or replace the signature of an individual...and to authenticate...2: something that firmly closes or secures: as...

Attest: 1 a : to bear witness to : affirm to be true or genuine : CERTIFY; specifically : to witness and authenticate by signing as a witness...5. to put on oath or solemn declaration.

G4972 from sfragiV - sphragis 4973; to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation...by implication, to keep secret, to attest:--(set a, set to) seal up, stop.

G4973 probably strengthened from frassw - phrasso 5420; a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication, the stamp impressed (as a mark of

genuineness), literally or figuratively:--seal.

G5424 probably from an obsolete phrao (to rein in or curb; compare 5420); the midrif (as a partition of the body), i.e. (figuratively and by implication, of sympathy)...by extension the mind or cognitive faculties):--understanding.

H2368; chotham {kho-thawm'}; from 'chatham' (2856); a signature-ring:--seal, signet.

H2856 a primitive root; to close up; especially to seal:--make an end, mark, seal (up), stop.

We see the trail of the etymology, the origin of the Greek word G4972 is the Greek word G5424, which has to do with the mind or cognitive faculties, understanding.

Eph. 1:13 In whom ye also [trusted], after that ye heard...the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory...4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

2 Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God in him [are] yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, [is] God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. See also John 3:33 and Rev. 20:3

John 3:32 And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth...33 He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God...

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for

him hath God the Father sealed.

One first receives a seal when one is born again. The seal is an acknowledgement by The Father of the work Christ has wrought in making one a new creation. However, we know that this seal is not permanent, but conditional on our obedience. When we are born again our sins are forgiven, removed from us, transferred from us and stored some place in heaven (Job 14:17). At this point, our record of sin is not expunged. We are on probation. During this probationary time, if we choose to sin, our probation is violated, the seal of God is removed, and our original sins, which were removed from us, are returned back to us (Note1). Before God will expunge our record permanently, we will have to demonstrate, have a record of keeping the law, not sinning before entering heaven.

The Final Seal and Test

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary 2000 defines test: 1b. an act or process that reveals inherent qualities (as of character). c : an ordeal or oath required as proof of conformity with a set of beliefs. 3 b : an examination to determine factual knowledge or mental proficiency especially given to students during the course of a school term and covering a limited part of the year's work...

ACHIEVEMENT TEST: a standardized test for measuring the skill or knowledge attained by an individual in one or more fields of...study.

God knows all. God knows whether one will sin or not (1 King 8:39, Ps. 139:2), but the universe does not know. So we can see that the purpose of our probation is not for God,

Note 1- See Ezek. Chpt 18,33

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but for us and the universe. The sanctuary service teaches of an investigative judgment. If we are faithful to the end, then at the end of probation our sins are forever pardoned, our record forever expunged (blotted out), and our sins and its nature are placed upon Satan, their originator and rightful owner.

This is the final sealing. What will result after the final sealing? The final test. Satan, the adversary of God, will attempt to test/prove the witness by God that we will never sin, which witness the seals represents, wrong. Satan will attempt one final time to make us sin. We will be tempted by Satan exactly as Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

Passing the Test: Victory

Proverbs 14:6 but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth...Prov. 8:8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. 9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous...James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath **tried** me, I shall **come** forth as **gold**.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time....7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth...9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. (1 Tim. 2:4, Matt 11:25, 2 Tim 3:15)

See also Hag. 2:23, Exo. 39:6-28, Song. 8:6

Even though the final test will be great, we need not worry. Jesus is responsible and is the one preparing us for the final test (Phil. 1:6, 2 Tim. 1:12, Jude 24). The means?

The sanctified life with Jesus is a daily experience, characterized by daily walking in the newness of life with Jesus (Col 2:6), growing in holiness and purity, growing in the knowledge of God; literally an intimate relationship, one of intimacy, fellowship with God. Daily, the old man in the flesh with its affections and lusts is crucified by the power of Jesus (Gal 2:20, 5:24, Roman 6:6). Now one is daily meeting life challenges, not as the old man, but with/through the power of Jesus in the inner man; one is daily overcoming the temptations, trials, snares of the devil (2 Cor. 2:14). Further, God has given us the Holy Spirit as our teacher and the one Who will bring all things to our remembrance (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-14). It is this daily victorious experience which prepares one to pass the final test.

We need not worry, nor be trouble about the test that is about to try the world. God has provided all the provisions necessary for us to pass the test. Further, we have seen that God's desire is that we pass the test. God's desire is that through our passing the test man's credibility will be restored. The universe can truly be forever confident that man will never sin again. All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28-30). God be with you toward this end. May we all be in the victorious company whom stand on the sea of glass (Rev. 15:2).

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