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## “Putting God on Trial”

Exodus 17:1-7

Memory Verse: Isaiah 53:6

### Introduction

- A. Big Idea: Even when his people fail to trust him, God faithfully provides for his people.
- B. “If we are faithless, he remains faithful” (2 Timothy 2:13).

### I. God Tests His People (17:1)

- A. God guides his people.
- B. Each test is an opportunity to trust God or to doubt God.
- C. “I tested you at the waters of Meribah” (Psalm 81:7c).

### II. The People Test God (17:2-4, 7)

- A. They demanded God’s provision (17:2a). They presumed upon God.
- B. They denied God’s protection (17:3). They accused God.
- C. They doubted God’s presence (17:7). They doubted God.
- D. Theodicy—how do we justify or defend God in light of the existence of evil? Why does an omnipotent and omnibenevolent God allow evil and suffering?
- E. Getting God off the hook for the existence of evil:
  - 1. Sovereign versus permissive will of God
  - 2. Satan
  - 3. God is dependent on our faith
- F. These so-called explanations do not line up with Scripture. Neither do they satisfy the skeptic or the believer.

### III. God Takes the Peoples’ Judgment and Provides for Their Need (17:5-6)

- A. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
- B. Isaiah 53:6
- C. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- D. Isaiah 53:5

### Conclusion

- A. Even when his people fail to trust him, God faithfully provides for his people.
- B. Psalm 95:7c-11
- C. Hebrews 3:7-19
- D. “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15b).
- E. The Gospel Definition