

HEBREWS 3:8-11

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

» 9 † **When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.**

» 10 † Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

» 11 † So I swear in my wrath, **They shall not enter into my rest.**)

Provocation

- action or speech that makes someone annoyed or angry, especially deliberately.

- **They heard It, but they didn't believe It.**
- God come down. He showed them a Pillar of Fire. Showed by His prophets, signs and wonders, He was with him.
- **They didn't believe It.** Oh, they liked to see the miracles. They liked to hear the prophet.
- **But as far as believing It, they didn't.** Their lives proves they didn't.
- **"Now," He said, "don't you fall after that same example of unbelief."** For in this last days, to the Gentile church, God has appeared again; same sign, same wonder, same Pillar of Fire, vindicated, proven.
- **Let us not harden our hearts and fall in that temptation back yonder, of unbelief, for we'll rot on earth and that'll be all of it.**

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Exodus

- Egypt
- **Wilderness**
- Promised Land

Exodus

- Justification
- **Sanctification**
- Baptism of the Holy Ghost

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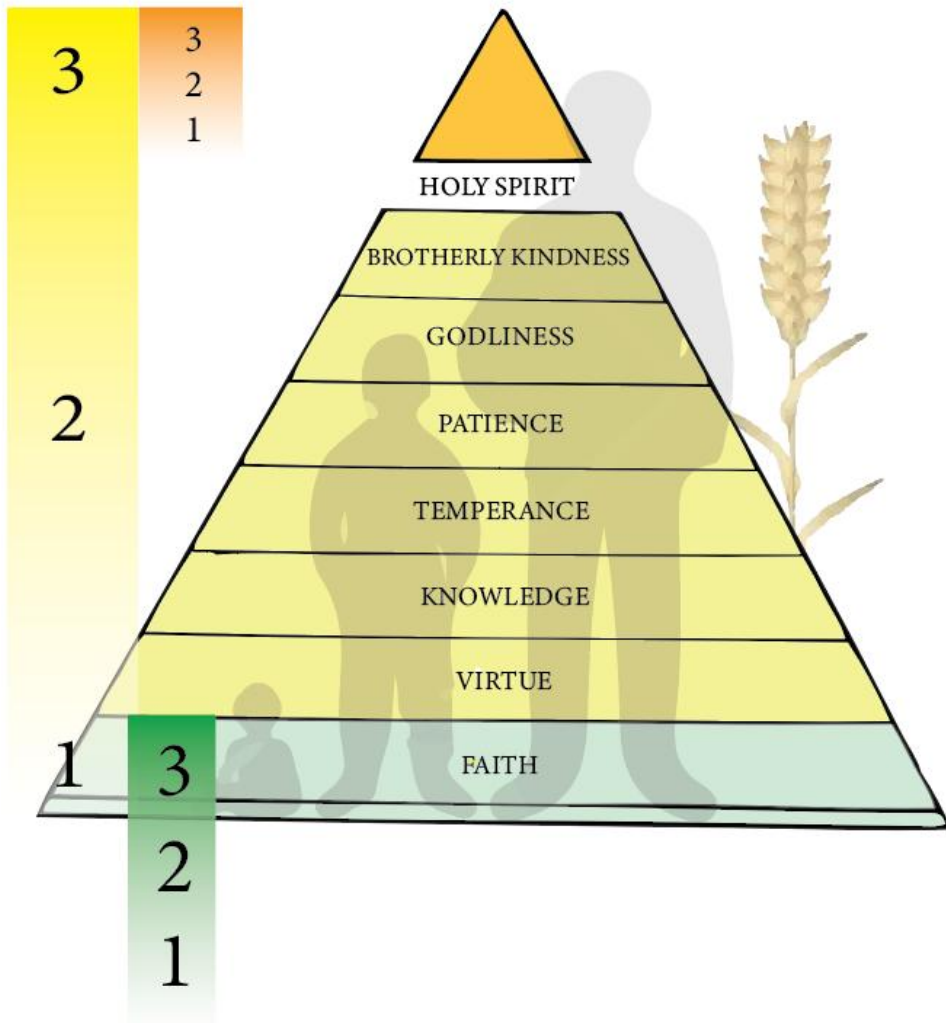


BAPTISM
of the
HOLY GHOST

SANCTIFICATION



JUSTIFICATION



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- There was three stages of the journey, and there's three stages of this journey.
- For we are justified by faith, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, forsaking the land of Egypt, come out,
- and then are sanctified through the offering of His Blood, washed from our sins, and become pilgrims and sojourners, claiming that we are seeking a land, a city that's coming, or a promise.
- So did Israel in the wilderness, sojourners, no place to rest, traveling night after night, following the Pillar of Fire, but finally come to the promised land where they settled down.

- Paul, trying to get, later on, get down here, the experience that he had.
- Trying to relate the experience, he typed it to the Old Testament.
- He said, "Now we've entered into a new thing, to this new dispensation, by Jesus Christ. Old times, the Lord appeared to them by the prophets, but now He's by His Son, Jesus."
- Now he said, "They entered not, because of their unbelief." They did not believe.
- "But now, we, we move into a dispensation, and don't you harden your heart. Don't you act like they did, in the days of provocation, when they provoked God."
- **How did they do it? Not by living immorally. Let me grind this down to you.**
- **You say, "Brother Branham, I go to church." That's all right. "I never lied in my life." That's fine. "I never stole. I never done this, that, or the other." That's very fine. That's all good. But, that still isn't sin.**
- **The sin is when God shows Himself and you disbelieve It, you won't listen to It.**

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1/14 Provocations – *Ready to turn back because of hardship*

Exodus 5:19-21

- » 19 † And the officers of the children of Israel did see that they were in evil case, after it was said, Ye shall not minish ought from your bricks of your daily task.
- » 20 † And they met Moses and Aaron, who stood in the way, as they came forth from Pharaoh:
- » 21 † And they said unto them, **The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.**

- » 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
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- » 10 † Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.
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2/14 Provocations – *Desire to turn back at the Red Sea*

Exodus 14:10-12

- » 10 † And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, **the Egyptians marched after them**; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.
- » 11 † And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? **wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us**, to carry us forth out of Egypt?
- » 12 † **Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians?** For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

3/14 Provocations – Murmuring at *Bitter Waters*

Exodus 15:22-26

» 22 † So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

» 23 † And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

» 24 † **And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?**

» 25 † And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, **and there he proved them,**

» 26 † **And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

4/14 Provocations – *Why did we leave Egypt to die of **hunger**?*

Exodus 16:1-5

» 1 † And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

» 2 † And **the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:**

» 3 † And the children of Israel said unto them, **Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.**

» 4 † Then said the LORD unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;** and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

5/14 Provocations – *Why did we leave Egypt to die of **thirst**?*

Exodus 17:1-6

» 1 † And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: **and there was no water for the people to drink.**

» 2 † 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 the LORD?**

» 3 † **And the people thirsted there for 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?**

» 4 † And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, **What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.**

» 5 † And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

» 6 † Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; **and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.** And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

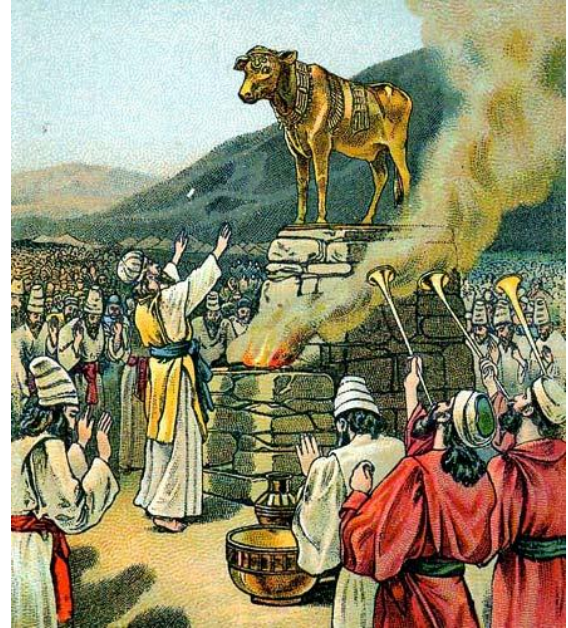
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6/14 Provocations – *The Golden Calf*

Exodus 32:7-8

» 7 † And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

» 8 † They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: **they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.**



This is the first time Moses intercedes for the people.

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

7/14 Provocations – *Complaining about Manna. Moses wants to die.*

Numbers 11:4-6

» 4 † And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, **Who shall give us flesh to eat?**

» 5 † We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

» 6 † But now our soul is dried away: **there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.**

NUMBERS 11:14-15

» 14 † I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

» 15 † **And if thou deal thus with me, kill me,** I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; **and let me not see my wretchedness.**

» 8 † Harden not your hearts, **as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

8/14 Provocations – Complaining about Moses' leadership. Miriam cursed with leprosy.

Numbers 12:1-2

» 1 † And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

» 2 † And they said, **Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.**

This is the second time Moses intercedes for the people.

NUMBERS 12:13-14

» 13 † And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.

» 14 † And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.

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9/14 Provocations – *Preferring to die than face Giants*

Numbers 13:33 – Numbers 14:3

» 32 † And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, **is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.**

» 33 † And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

» 1 † **And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.**

» 2 † **And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!**

» 3 † **And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?**

10/14 Provocations – *Let us Make a Captain*

Numbers 14:4-12

» 4 † And they said one to another, **Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.**

» 5 † Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

» 6 † **And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:**

» 7 † And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

» 8 † If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

» 9 † Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

» 10 † **But all the congregation bade stone them with stones.** And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

This is the third time Moses intercedes for the people.

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- » 10 † Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.
- » 11 † So I sware in my wrath, **They shall not enter into my rest.**)

- 75% of pastors report being “*extremely stressed*” or “*highly stressed*”
- 90% work between 55 to 75 hours per week
- 90% feel fatigued and worn out every week
- 40% report a serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month
- 91% have experienced some form of burnout in ministry and 18% say they are “fried to a crisp right now”

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- 70% of pastors say *they have a lower self-esteem now than when they entered ministry*
- 70% *constantly fight depression*
- 50% feel so discouraged that they would leave their ministry if they could, but can't find another job
- 80% believe their pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families and 33% said it was an *outright hazard*
- 80% of ministry spouses feel left out and unappreciated in their church
- 77% feel they do not have a good marriage
- 65% feel their family is in a glass house

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They got weary, every time they'd get to a place where a showdown come.

Then what would they do? **They would fly loose, and get weary, and want to turn back, and, "Why did this happen to me?"**

29 Strange thing, this morning, after preaching that just as hard as I could, there was many came to the altar and questioned It, **"Why does this happen to me?"** You see how It goes? It goes over the top of the people's head. It's just the same, people.

30 Jesus said, "You have eyes, but you can't see." He said that to the disciples.

31 They said, "Lo, now Thou speakest plainly. Now we believe. No man has to tell You anything, 'cause God shows it to You."

32 **He said, "Do you now believe, after all this time?" See?**

33 **You mustn't question anything, to God.** "For the footsteps of the righteous is ordered of the Lord." **And every trial is put upon you, to prove you. And the Bible said, "They're more precious to you than gold."** So if God let a few light afflictions happen to you, remember, it's for the correction of you.

11/14 Provocations – *Rebellion Against Moses*

Numbers 16:1-3

» 1 † Now **Korah**, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and **Dathan** and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

» 2 † ***And they rose up before Moses,*** with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, ***famous in the congregation, men of renown:***

» 3 † And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, **Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves** above the congregation of the LORD?

NUMBERS 16:32

32 † And **the earth opened her mouth,** and swallowed them up, and their houses, **and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.**

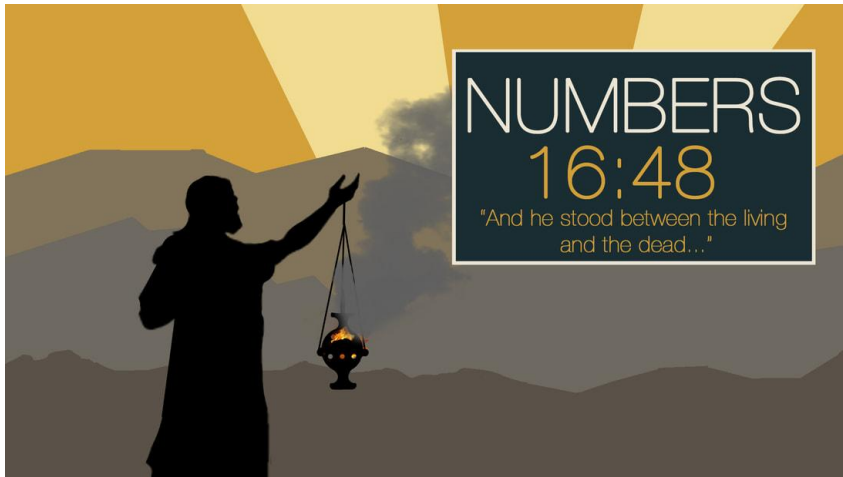
This is the fourth time Moses intercedes for the people.

12/14 Provocations – *Complaining that Moses Killed God's People*

NUMBERS 16:41

» 41 † *But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.*

This is the fifth time Moses intercedes for the people.



13/14 Provocations – *More Complaining about Water*

Numbers 20:1-4

» 1 † Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

» 2 † And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

» 3 † And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

» 4 † And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?



Hear now, ye rebels;
must we fetch you water out of this rock?

14/14 Provocations – *Loathing the Light Bread*

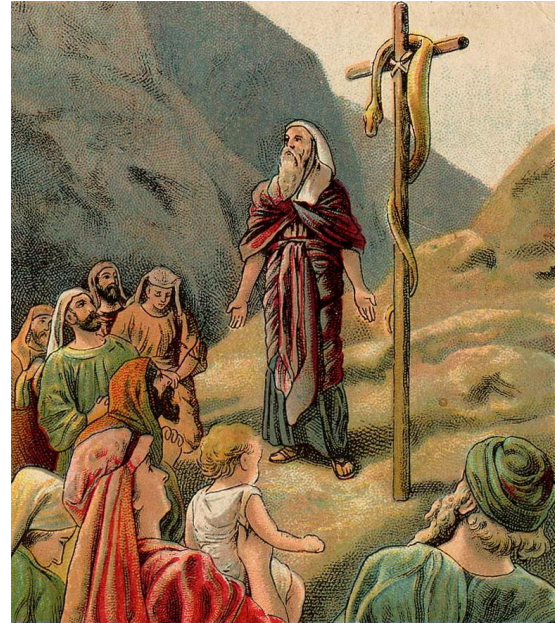
Numbers 21:4-5

» 4 † And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

» 5 † And the people spake against God, and against Moses, **Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.**

» 6 † **And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.**

» 7 † Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.



Hebrews 3:8-13

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» 9 † When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

» 10 † Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

» 11 † So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

» 12 † Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

» 13 † But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

HEBREWS 3:14-19

» 14 † For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

» 15 † While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.**

» 16 † For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

» 17 † But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

» 18 † And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

» 19 † So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

John 6:47-49

» 47 † Verily, verily, I say unto you,
He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

» 48 † I am that bread of life.

» 49 † Your fathers did eat manna in
the wilderness, **and are dead.**

Genesis 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and
evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that
thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.**

