

Gratitude: FTXs Test for Gratitude or Venom; Mechanics of Soul Rebellion, Exodus 16:2-3a**N. FTXs Test for Gratitude or Venom**

It's interesting that the entire Jewish nation was exposed to the very same tests, all at the same time. By this I mean that when there was a no-water test, all two million people were without water simultaneously. The same was true when they faced a no-food situation—all were without food simultaneously.

When God supplied the water and the food, he did so to the entire nation simultaneously. By this I mean that those who were bitter about the way the water or food tasted were still supplied with the same water and food provided those who expressed gratitude for the miracles. The purpose of the deprivations was to determine what was in the souls of each individual involved.

Every citizen of Israel was either thirsty or hungry. Some were faithful that God would provide while others became bitter not only with the circumstances but with the miraculous provisions which followed. The tests when they are reduced down to their very basics were designed to determine one thing: Which do you hold most dear in your life—your body or your soul?

Those who were more concerned about the body were the ones who were upset over the physical deprivation of water and food. Those who were more concerned about the soul were the ones who were upset over the quality of the miraculous provisions when compared to their provisions in Egypt.

Those who were more concerned about the soul were content to depend upon the Lord for a solution and were grateful with the miraculous provisions that followed.

Those who were more concerned about the body classified the manna as miserable food; those who were more concerned about the soul described the manna as wafers with honey. Those who had no capacity in their souls—no grace orientation, no doctrinal adjustment—often gathered more than they could eat.

Those who had capacity through grace orientation and doctrinal adjustment, knew their capacity and gathered only what they needed for each day. As their capacity for manna increased, they were free to gather more but they never gathered more than their capacity required.

Those who had no capacity either gathered too much and it spoiled, or they didn't gather enough on Friday and were hungry on Saturday and consequently complained; while at other times they tried to gather on the wrong day, Saturday, and there was no manna available and they complained.

The Gratitude Generation advanced because it had faith, increased in gratitude, developed capacity, and kept the soul as its top priority. The Venom Generation retrogressed because it had no faith, no gratitude, no capacity, and kept the body as its top priority.

After the Jews were given instructions by the Lord, He then tested them in order to observe their orientation and adjustment. These tests were Field Training Exercises—FTXs in the *Jornada*. The FTXs utilized the natural deprivations of the *Jornada* to make an issue out of one's priorities—will he emphasize the body or the soul?

The First Generation consistently rebelled against Moses and God as a result of these FTXs because they were more interested in maintaining their physical status quo rather than increasing the reading on their Gratitude Gauges.

O. The Mechanics of Soul Rebellion: Exodus 16:2-4

Exodus 16:2 - The entire congregation of the people of Israel rebelled against Moses and Aaron in the Jornada.

Exodus 16:1 - tells us that the Jews took from Ramses a 30-day supply of food which by the time they reached the Wilderness of Sin was exhausted. The adult generation's reaction to this was predictable—they took a look around, decided the Jornada was designed to kill them, and then blamed Moses for leading them into it.

Exodus 16:3a - Then the people said to Moses and Aaron, “We wish we had died by the Lord’s hand [10th plague] in the land of Egypt ...”

One of the major problems in moving a group of people out of slavery is that they don’t have the capacity for freedom. It is the Lord's intent to utilize the Jewish people as the administrators of His first Client Nation.

Definition: A Client Nation is a country in which a certain number of spiritually mature believers form a pivot sufficient to sustain the nation and through which God furthers His plan for mankind.