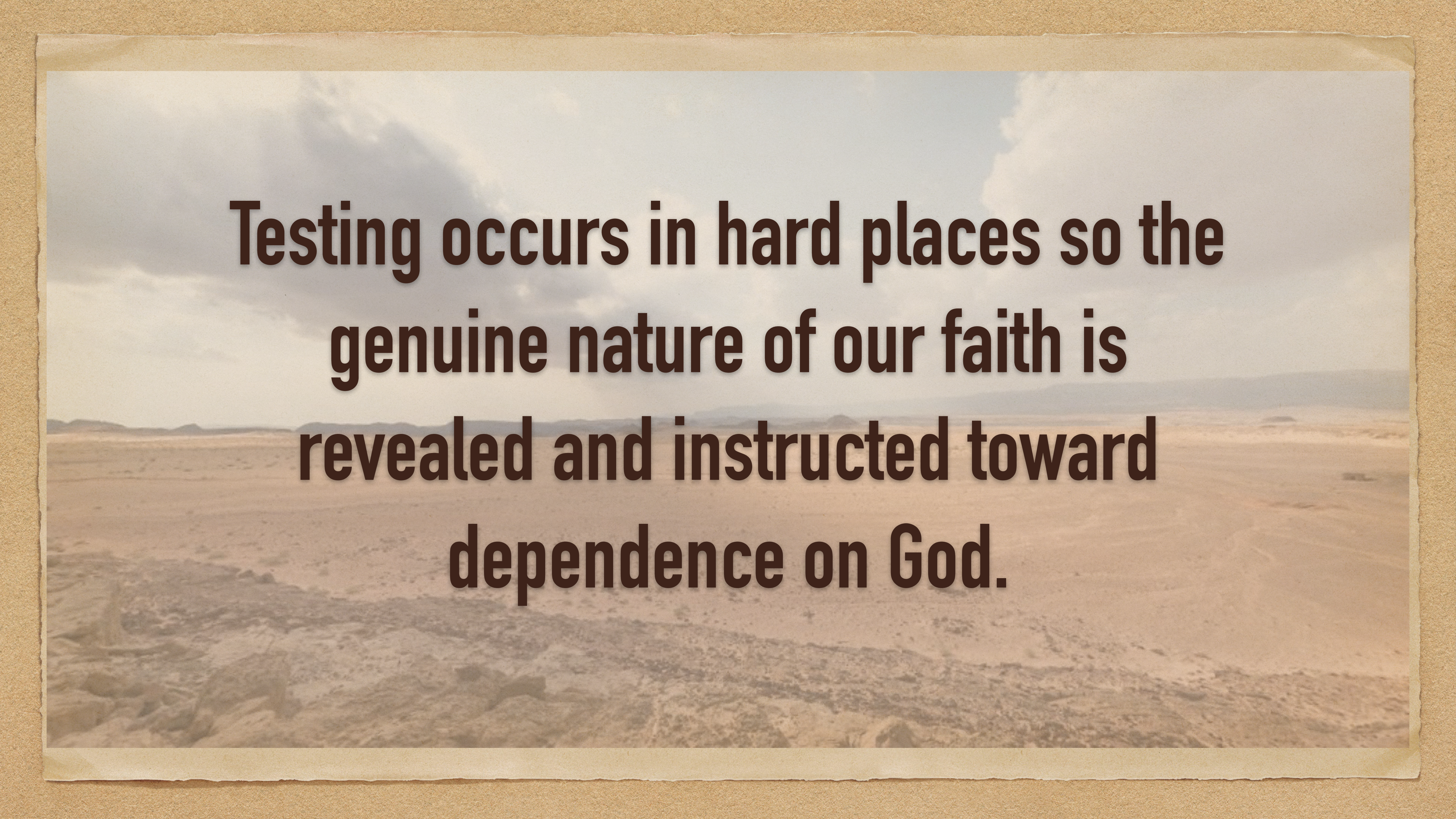


The Testing of the Hangry Israelites

Exodus 16:1-21



A photograph of a vast, arid desert landscape under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a wide, flat expanse of dry earth with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the distance, there are low, rolling hills or mountains. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The entire image is framed by a light brown, textured border, suggesting it's a page from a book or a poster.

**Testing occurs in hard places so the
genuine nature of our faith is
revealed and instructed toward
dependence on God.**

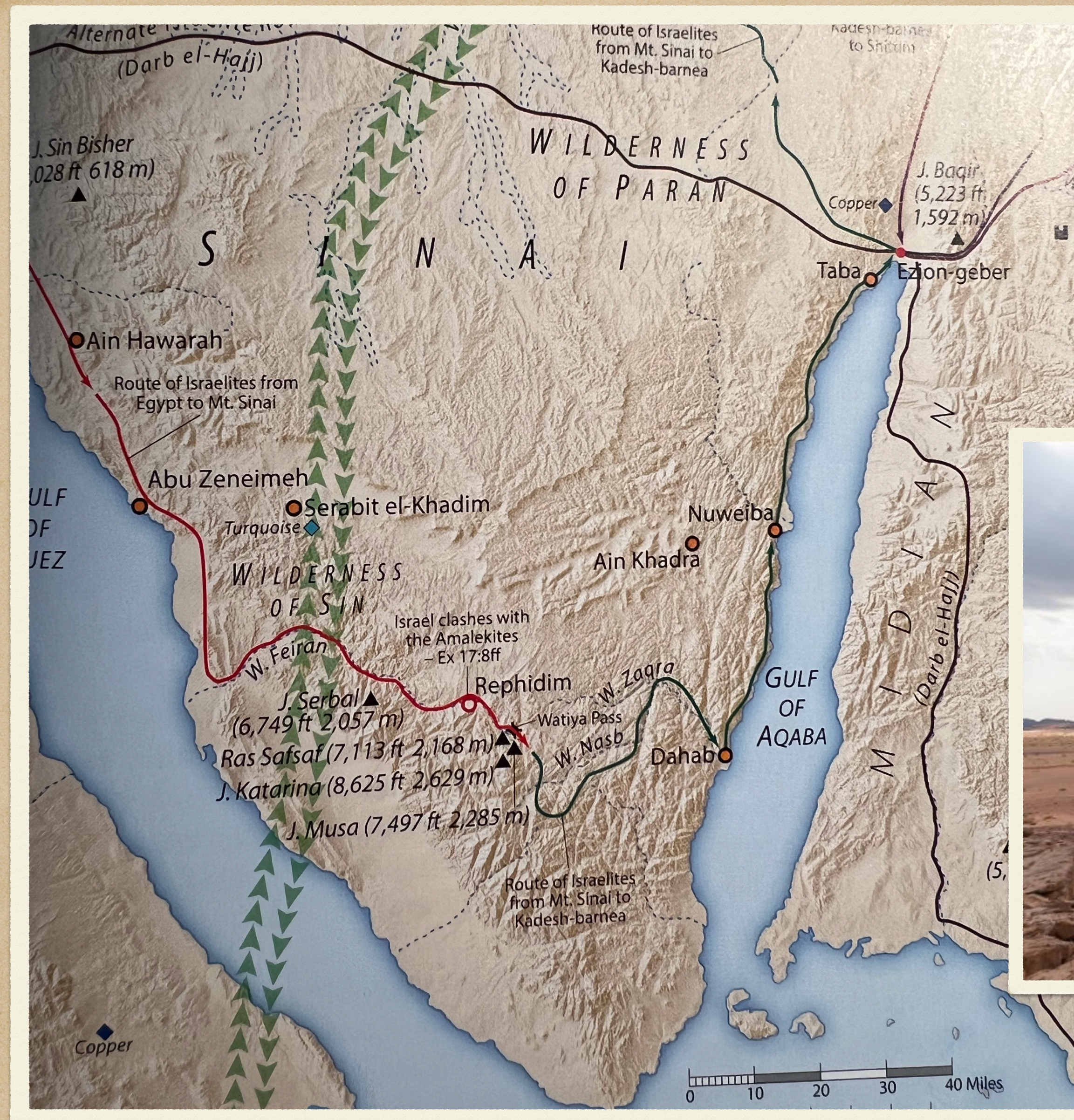
Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

1) Conditions of the Hard Place—1-3

- ❖ **The lack of resources**
- ❖ **The location of their campsite**

Wilderness of Sin

Desolate, deficient in water
and food for humans



Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

1) Conditions of the Hard Place—1-3

- ❖ The lack of resources
- ❖ The location of their campsite
- ❖ The nature of their grumbling
 - ◆ A fixation on their immediate circumstances
 - ◆ Their forgetfulness of Yahweh's providence
 - Their recent and long-term bondage
 - The outpouring of Yahweh's strikes against Egypt
 - The miracles displayed in their deliverance

Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

2) Provisions in the Hard Place—4a, 8a, 12-15

- ◆ Rain bread from heaven
- ◆ Bread to the full in the morning—Manna: Natural or Miracle?
- ◆ Meat to eat—Quail: Coincidence or Providence?

Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

3) Testing in the Hard Place—4b

- ◆ Who is the testing for?
- ◆ What does the testing reveal?

4) Instructions in the hard place—5, 16, 19

- ◆ A weekly food collection schedule
- ◆ What does the test reveal?
 - A greedy heart
 - A self-centered character
 - A doubting mind
 - A distorted theology of the character of God

Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

5) Responses in the hard place—20

◆ What was their response?

- Grumbling when looking down

◆ The big picture of Exodus

- God delivers redemption for His people
- God demonstrates His preservation and provision for His people
- God displays His guidance for His people
- In the law He describes His expectations for His people and the holiness of His nature
- In the conquest of the land they reach the destination of His promise

◆ What should have been their response?

- Gratitude when looking up.

Five Observations of the Tested Israelites

Learning to look beyond our immediate circumstances and trust God for the big picture

- ◆ The promises he has made to us—Philippians 4:19
- ◆ His grace that sustains us—2 Corinthians 12:9
- ◆ The focus that guides us—Colossians 3:1-3
- ◆ The destination that awaits us—John 14:2-3

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