

# THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD

**A Journey Through the  
Old Testament**

Romans 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope.

## **Romans 8**

**28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.**

**29 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.**

## **Genesis 42**

**36 Their father Jacob said to them, "You have deprived me of my sons.**

**Joseph is gone and Simeon is no more.**

**Now you want to take Benjamin.**

**Everything is happening against me!"**

**38 But Jacob replied, "My son will not go down there with you, for his brother is dead, and he alone is left.**

**If any harm comes to him on your journey, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."**

## **Genesis 43**

**1 Now the famine was still severe in the land.**

**2 So when Jacob's sons had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them,**

**"Go back and buy us a little more food."**



## **Genesis 43**

**3 But Judah replied, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'**

**4 If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy food for you.**

**5 But if you will not send him, we will not go; for the man told us, 'You will not see my face again unless your brother is with you.'"**



## **Genesis 43**

**6 "Why did you bring this trouble upon me?"  
Israel asked. "Why did you tell the man you had  
another brother?"**

**7 They replied, "The man questioned us in detail  
about ourselves and our family:**

**'Is your father still alive? Do you have another  
brother?'**

**And we answered him accordingly.**

**How could we possibly know that he would say,  
'Bring your brother here'?"**

## **Genesis 43**

**8 And Judah said to his father Israel,**

**“Send the boy with me, and we will go at once, so that we may live and not die—neither we, nor you, nor our children.**

**9 I will guarantee his safety.**

**You may hold me personally responsible.**

**If I do not bring him back and set him before you, then may I bear the guilt before you all my life.**

**10 If we had not delayed, we could have come and gone twice by now.”**



## **Genesis 43**

**11 Then their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this:**

**Put some of the best products of the land in your packs and carry them down as a gift for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachios and almonds.**

**12 Take double the silver with you so that you may return the silver that was put back into the mouths of your sacks.**

**Perhaps it was a mistake.**





## **Genesis 43**

**13 Take your brother as well, and return to the man at once.**

**14 May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother along with Benjamin.**

**As for me, if I am bereaved, I am bereaved.”**

**15 So the men took these gifts, along with double the amount of silver, and Benjamin as well.**

**They made their way down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.**



## **Genesis 43**

**16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with his brothers, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my house. Slaughter an animal and prepare it, for they shall dine with me at noon."**

**17 The man did as Joseph had commanded and took the brothers to Joseph's house.**

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## **Genesis 43**

**18 But the brothers were frightened that they had been taken to Joseph's house.**

**"We have been brought here because of the silver that was returned in our bags the first time," they said.**

**"They intend to overpower us and take us as slaves, along with our donkeys."**



## **Genesis 43**

**19 So they approached Joseph's steward and spoke to him at the entrance to the house.**

**20 "Please, sir," they said, "we really did come down here the first time to buy food.**

**21 But when we came to the place we lodged for the night, we opened our sacks and, behold, each of us found his silver in the mouth of his sack!**

**It was the full amount of our silver, and we have brought it back with us.**

**22 We have brought additional silver with us to buy food. We do not know who put our silver in our sacks."**

## **Genesis 43**

**23 "It is fine," said the steward.**

**"Do not be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, has given you the treasure that was in your sacks.**

**I received your silver."**

**Then he brought Simeon out to them.**

**24 And the steward took the men into Joseph's house, gave them water to wash their feet, and provided food for their donkeys.**

**25 Since the brothers had been told that they were going to eat a meal there, they prepared their gift for Joseph's arrival at noon.**

**26 When Joseph came home, they presented him with the gifts they had brought, and they bowed to the ground before him.**

**27 He asked if they were well, and then he asked, "How is your elderly father you told me about? Is he still alive?"**

**28 "Your servant our father is well," they answered. "He is still alive." And they bowed down to honor him.**

## **Genesis 43**

**29 When Joseph looked up and saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son, he asked, "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" Then he declared, "May God be gracious to you, my son."**

**30 Joseph hurried out because he was deeply stirred over his brother, and he went to a private room to weep.**

**31 Then he washed his face and came back out. Regaining his composure, he said, "Serve the meal."**

## **Genesis 43**

**32 So they served him by himself,  
and them by themselves,  
and the Egyptians who ate with him by  
themselves,  
because Egyptians would not eat with Hebrews,  
since that was detestable to them.**





## **Genesis 43**

**33 They were seated before him in order by age, from the firstborn to the youngest, and the men looked at each other in astonishment.**

**34 When the portions were served to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times larger than any of the others.**

**So they feasted and drank freely with Joseph.**

A silhouette of a person standing on a rock against a starry night sky with the Milky Way. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, looking up at the stars. The sky is dark with a vibrant purple and blue glow from the Milky Way. The foreground is dark, suggesting a grassy field or a rocky outcrop.

# We Worship a God Who Tests His People

## Why Does God Test His People?

### 1. To reveal what is in our hearts

- In order to vindicate God and glorify Him
- In order to expose our hearts to us

### 2. To produce fruit in us

- it humbles us
- it convicts us of sin
- it purifies us
- it strengthens us

# **James 1**

**2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you encounter trials of many kinds,**

**3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.**

**4 Allow perseverance to finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**



# **We Worship a God Who Tests His People**

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**There is very good news...**

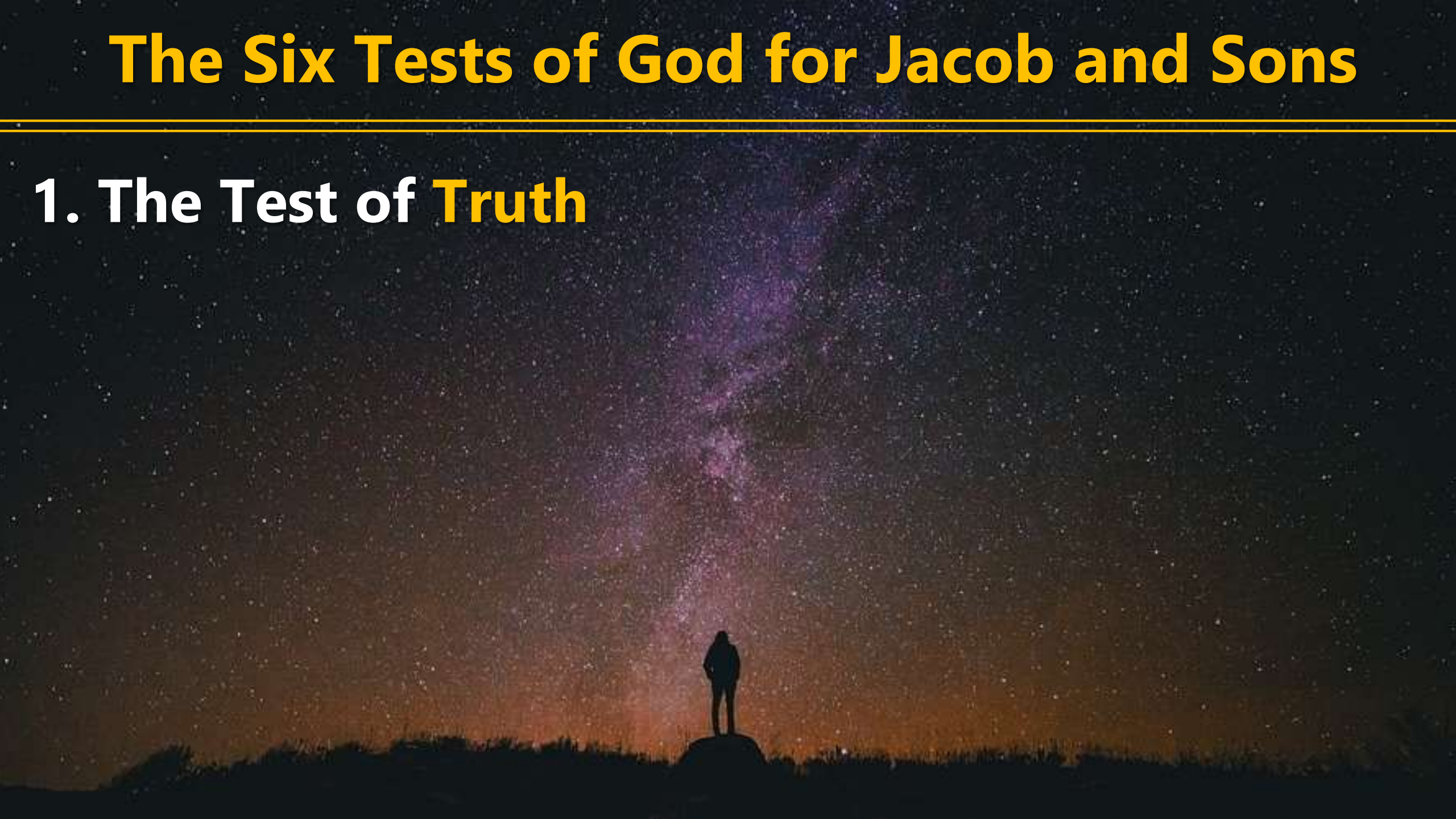
**We can learn from  
the testing of others**



# The Six Tests of God for Jacob and Sons

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## 1. The Test of Truth



## **Genesis 42**

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**If any harm comes to him on your journey, you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."**

## Genesis 35

**11 And God told him, “I am God Almighty.  
Be fruitful and multiply.**

**A nation—even a company of nations—shall come  
from you, and kings shall descend from you.**

**12 The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will  
give to you, and I will give this land to your  
descendants after you.”**

A silhouette of a person standing on a rock, looking up at a starry night sky. The person is positioned in the lower center of the frame, with their back to the viewer. The sky is filled with numerous small, bright stars, creating a sense of vastness and wonder. The overall color palette is a mix of dark blues, purples, and oranges, suggesting a twilight or night scene.

## Genesis 28

**15 Look, I am with you, and I will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.**

**For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”**



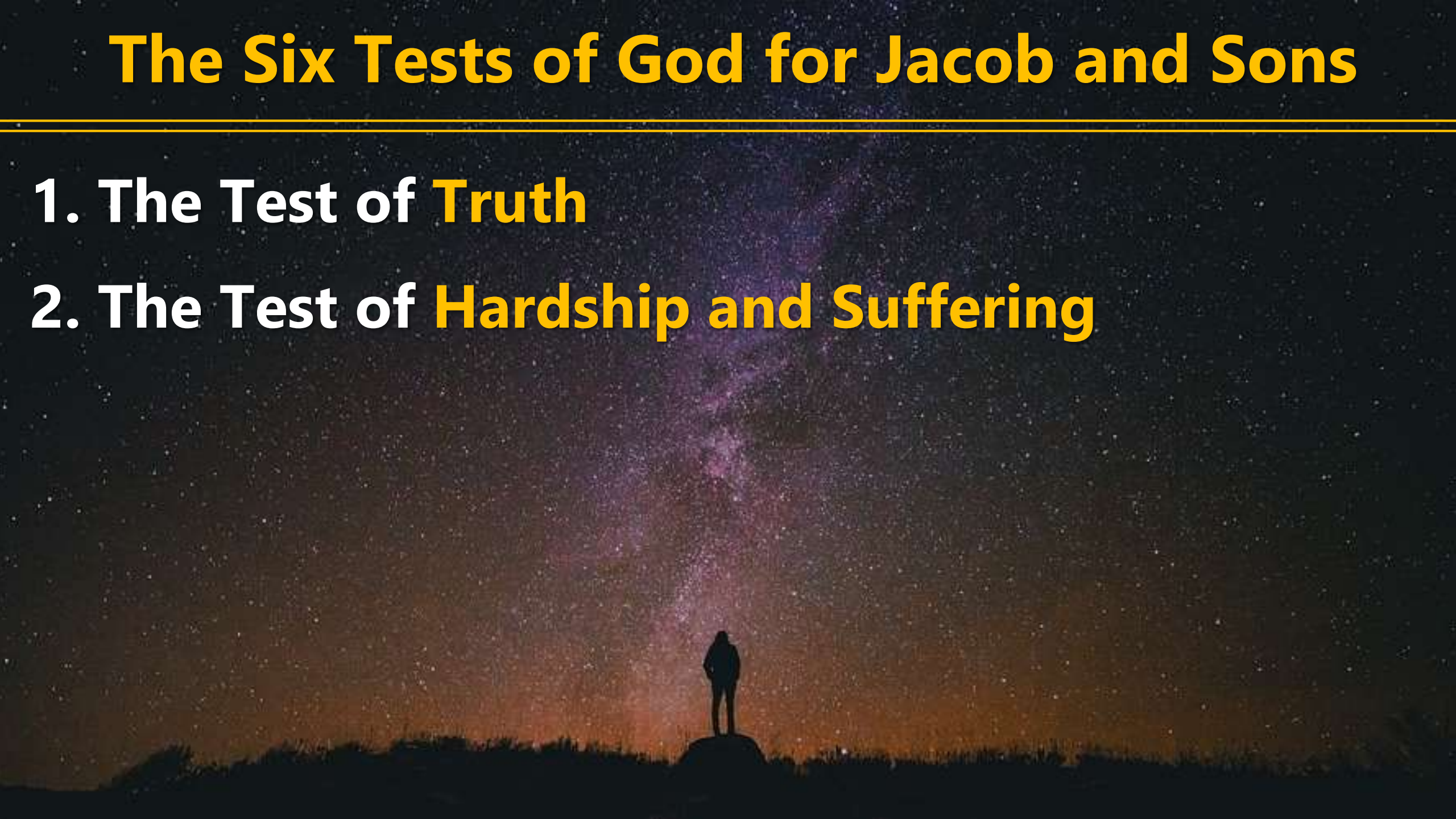


# The Six Tests of God for Jacob and Sons

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1. The Test of **Truth**

2. The Test of **Hardship and Suffering**



# James 1

**12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him.**



# The Six Tests of God for Jacob and Sons

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1. The Test of **Truth**

2. The Test of **Hardship and Suffering**

3. The Test of **Conviction of Sin**



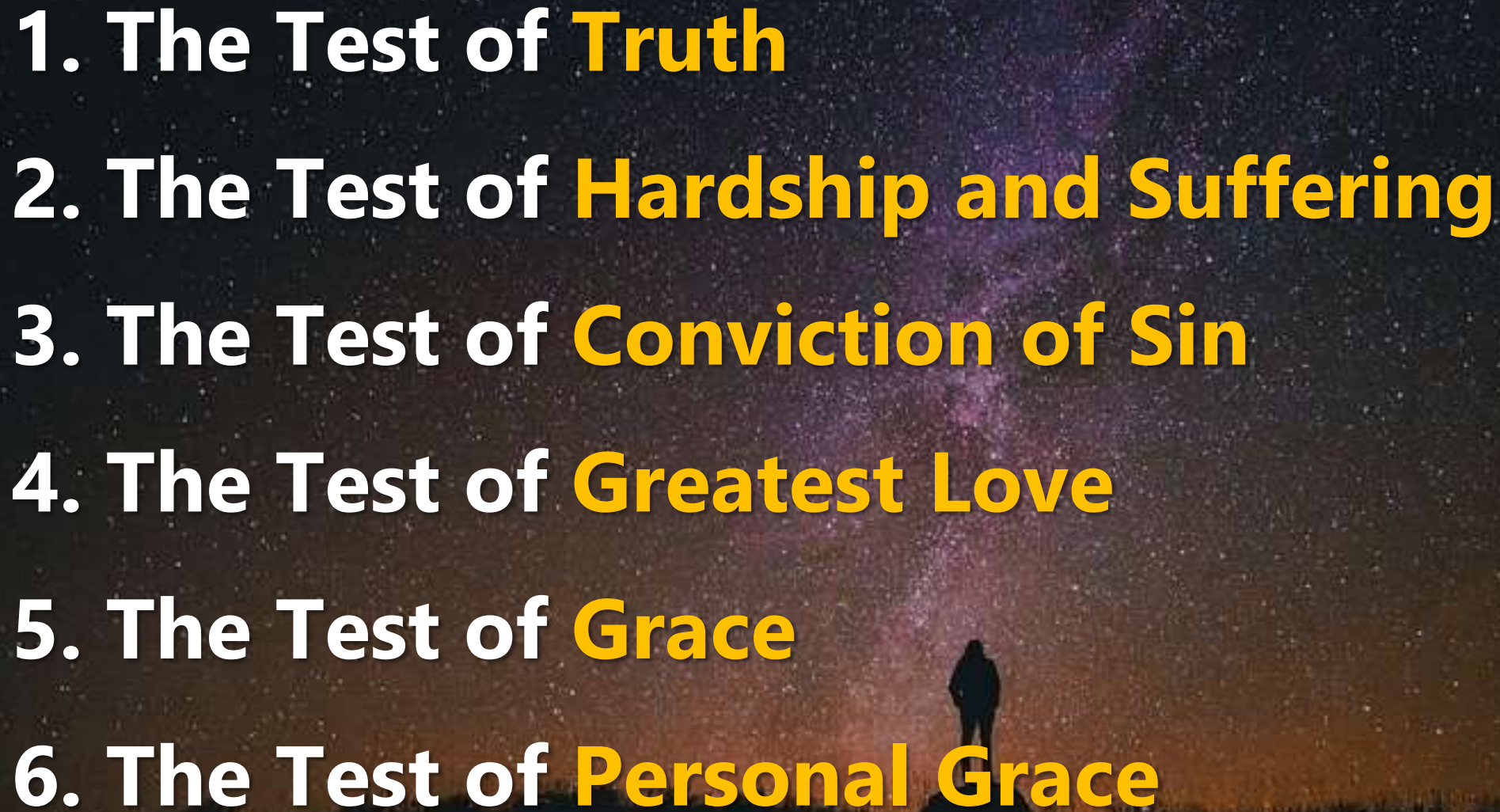
## **2 Corinthians 7**

**10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.**



# The Six Tests of God for Jacob and Sons

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1. The Test of **Truth**
  2. The Test of **Hardship and Suffering**
  3. The Test of **Conviction of Sin**
  4. The Test of **Greatest Love**
  5. The Test of **Grace**
  6. The Test of **Personal Grace**
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# **1 Corinthians 15**

**9 For I am the least of the apostles and am unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.**

**10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace to me was not in vain.**

**No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.**



## **Romans 8**

**28 And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.**

**29 For those God foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.**

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