

(33)

Since examinations begin tomorrow, I thought today we would look at little at the idea of "examine." We find that this word examine occurs a number of times in the Bible, but we find that there are other Old English words that have approximately the same meaning, but have lost that meaning today. Now the word "test" is one which does have the same meaning today practically, but the words "try" and "prove" are used more in the KJV than --- to mean what we mean by examine than the word examine itself is. In the Heb. and in the Gk. there are two or three diff. words which are sometimes translated examine, they also are often translated either prove or try, sometimes even tempt. The commonest perhaps in the OT is ~~bachan~~. This is translated examine only once; prove 5 times; tempt once, and try, 17 times. In the NT perhaps the commonest word with this idea is ~~bilchamazde~~; which is again translated examine only once, but is translated prove ten times and try 4 times. Now prove and try do not convey that meaning today. We are all familiar with the verse: Prove all things. When we say that to somebody today they think that means, you are to give proof for anything that anybody asks you to prove, which of course is absurd. It means examine all things. Do not take an attitude simply because that's what your parents have, or that's what your friends have, or that's what the prejudices of people around you are; examine it, and have a reason for the attitude that you take.

Now I'd very quickly like to look at 8 verses in which this idea occurs. First I call your attention to Ps. 11:4-5. "The Lord is in his holy temple. The Lord's throne ~~thron~~ is in heaven. His eyes behold, his eyelids try the children of men. The Lord trieth the righteous." God is constantly examining us. Ps. 26:2: "Examine me O Lord and prove me. Try my reins and my heart." There we have examine, prove and try all three in a ~~row~~ ^{row}, and all three ^{here} /meaning just about exactly the same thing.

Ps. 139:23, the Psalmist prays, Search me O God ~~and~~ / and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts". He's not praying to be put on trial. He's praying that the Lord will keep on examining him. In Jer. 17:9-10, we have an interesting instance.