

"40 is a Special Number"

- The number forty (mentioned at least 146 times in the Bible) is used by God to represent a period of testing or judgment (the length of time necessary to accomplish some major part of Gods plan in his dealings with various portions of mankind).

Testing and Trials -- Precious

- “so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:7)
- “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1:3)

THE TRUE WEALTH

- “The trial of your faith” – more precious than gold.
- “the **precious** blood of Christ” (I Pet. 1:19)
- “a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and **precious**,” (I Pet 2:4)
- “a cornerstone chosen and **precious**, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” (I Pet. 2:6)
- “he has granted to us his **precious** and very great promises” (II Pet. 2:1-4)

The Testing Of The Wealth

- It rained for 40 days and 40 nights when God wanted to cleanse the world and start over. (Gen. 7:12)
- Jonah warned the City of Nineveh they had 40 days until God would overthrow the city. The people repented in those 40 days and God spared the city. (Jonah 3:4)
- Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. (Matt. 4:1,2)
- Jesus was seen in the earth 40 days after His crucifixion. (Acts 1:3;)

The Result – Perfect and Complete

- “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that **you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.** (James 1:2-4)
- “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) (Heb. 5:8-9)