

WRESTLING IN THE WILDERNESS



Jacob's Night of Wrestling

Genesis 32:24-28

Those who live in the last days must pass through an experience similar to that of Jacob. Foes will be all around them, ready to condemn and destroy. Alarm and despair will seize them, for it appears to them **as to Jacob in his distress, that God himself has become an avenging enemy.** It is the design of God to arouse the dormant energies of his people to look out of and away from self to One who can bring help and salvation, that the promises given for just such a time may be seen in their preciousness, and relied upon with unwavering trust. Here faith is proved.

ST November 27, 1879, par. 11

The test for Jacob was to trust in God though the evidence suggested that He had become an enemy.

To trust, despite the evidence.

Christ's Temptations in the Wilderness

Matthew 4:1-4

For forty days He fasted and prayed. Weak and emaciated from hunger, worn and haggard with mental agony, “His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.” Isaiah 52:14. **Now was Satan's opportunity. Now he supposed that he could overcome Christ.**

DA 118.1

There came to the Saviour, as if in answer to His prayers, one in the guise of an angel from heaven. He claimed to have a commission from God to declare that Christ's fast was at an end. As

God had sent an angel to stay the hand of Abraham from offering Isaac, so, satisfied with Christ's willingness to enter the bloodstained path, the Father had sent an angel to deliver Him; this was the message brought to Jesus.

DA 118.2

Though he appears as an angel of light, these first words betray his character. “If Thou be the Son of God.” Here is the insinuation of distrust.

DA 118.3

It was in the time of greatest weakness that Christ was assailed by the fiercest temptations. Thus Satan thought to prevail. By this policy he had gained the victory over men. When strength failed, and the will power weakened, and faith ceased to repose in God, then those who had stood long and valiantly for the right were overcome.

DA 120.2

The test for Christ was to distrust the Devil
though the evidence suggested that he was
an angel of light.

To distrust, despite the evidence.

The Saints in the Time of Trouble

Daniel 12:1 & Jeremiah 30:5-7

Those who live in the last days must pass through an experience similar to that of Jacob. Foes will be all around them, ready to condemn and destroy. Alarm and despair will seize them, for it appears to them as to Jacob in his distress, that God himself has become an avenging enemy.

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Yet to human sight it will appear that the people of God must soon seal their testimony with their blood as did the martyrs before them. They themselves begin to **fear that the Lord has left them** to fall by the hand of their enemies. It is a time of fearful agony. **Day and night they cry unto God for deliverance.**

The wicked exult, and the jeering cry is heard: “Where now is your faith? Why does not God deliver you out of our hands if you are indeed His people?”

GC 630.1

But the waiting ones remember Jesus dying upon Calvary's cross and the chief priests and rulers shouting in mockery: "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him." Matthew 27:42. **Like Jacob, all are wrestling with God.** Their countenances express their internal struggle. Paleness sits upon every face. **Yet they cease not their earnest intercession.**

GC 630.1

Their faith does not fail because their prayers are not immediately answered. Though suffering the keenest anxiety, terror, and distress, they do not cease their intercessions. They lay hold of the strength of God as Jacob laid hold of the Angel; and the language of their souls is: “I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me.”

GC 619.3

Those who are living upon the earth when the intercession of Christ shall cease in the sanctuary above are to stand in the sight of a holy God **without a mediator**. Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort they must be conquerors in the battle with evil.

GC 425.1

Satan's Last Stand

Satan sees that he is about to lose his case. He cannot sweep in the whole world. He makes one last desperate effort to overcome the faithful by deception. He does this in personating Christ. He clothes himself with the garments of royalty which have been accurately described in the vision of John. He has power to do this. He will appear to his deluded followers, the Christian world who received not the love of the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (transgression of the law), as Christ coming the second time.

LDE 164.1

He proclaims himself Christ, and he is believed to be Christ, a beautiful, majestic being clothed with majesty and, with soft voice and pleasant words, with glory unsurpassed by anything their mortal eyes had yet beheld. Then his deceived, deluded followers set up a shout of victory, “Christ has come the second time! Christ has come! He has lifted up His hands just as He did when He was upon the earth, and blessed us.”...

LDE 164.2

The saints look on with amazement. Will they also be deceived? Will they worship Satan?... One effort more, and then **Satan's last device is employed.** He hears the unceasing cry for Christ to come, for Christ to deliver them. **This last strategy is to personate Christ, and make them think their prayers are answered.**

LDE 164.3-165.1

As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come... **This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion.**

GC 624.2 in “The Time of Trouble”

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matthew 24:21-22

Then if any man shall say unto you, **Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.** For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; **insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.**

Matthew 24:23-24

In that time of adversity, when God looks like the enemy and the Devil looks like our friend, what will we do?

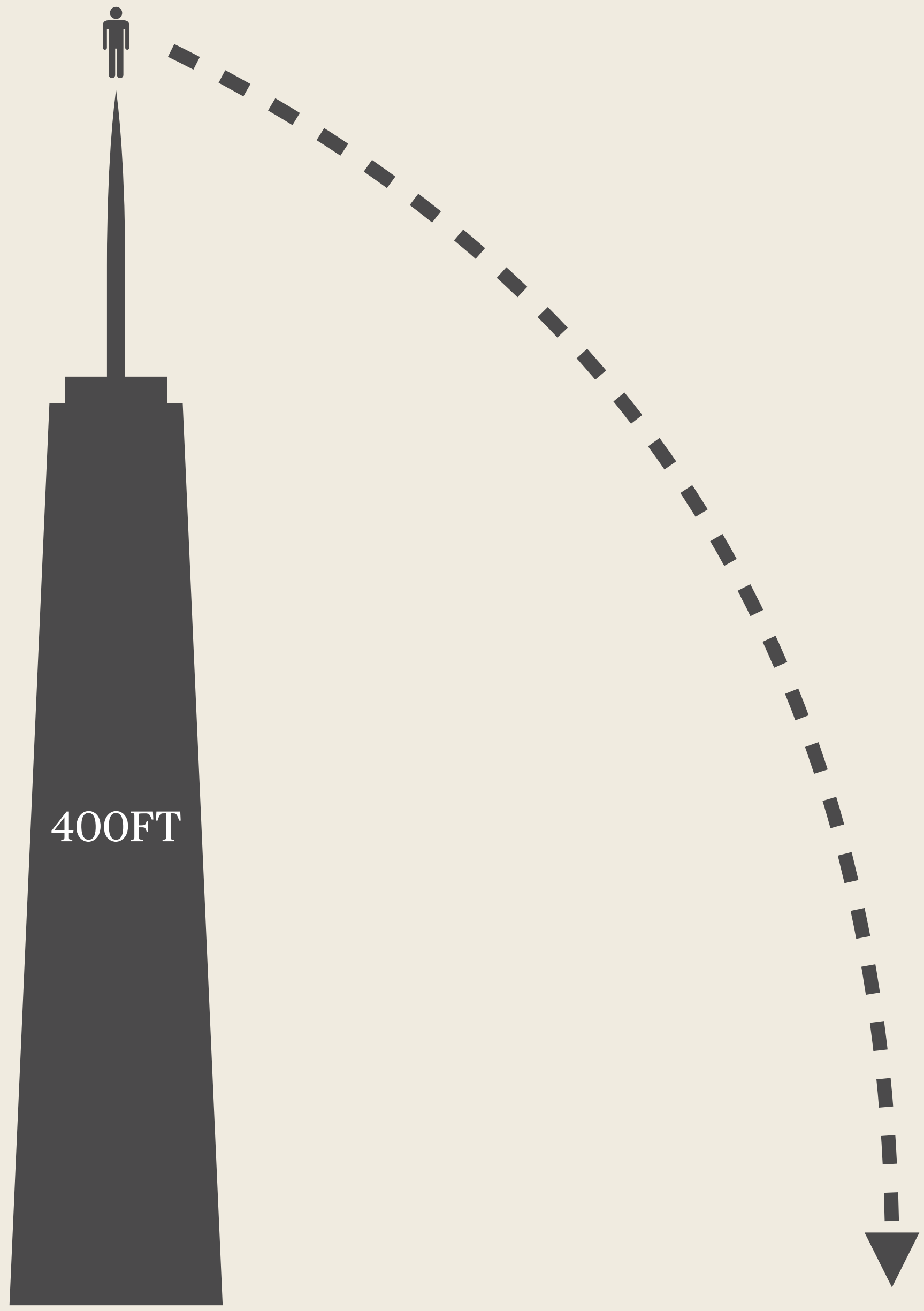
A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white pencil, filling in a multiple-choice test form. The form is a listening section with numbered questions and options A, B, C, and D. The text 'The Test' is overlaid in large white font. A teal pencil sharpener is visible in the top left corner, and a yellow sticky note is on the left side. The background is dark.

The Test









400FT



Practice Wrestling

The season of distress and anguish before us will require a faith that can endure weariness, delay, and hunger—a faith that will not faint though severely tried. The period of probation is granted to all to prepare for that time. Jacob prevailed because he was persevering and determined. His victory is an evidence of the power of importunate prayer. All who will lay hold of God's promises, as he did, and be as earnest and persevering as he was, will succeed as he succeeded.

GC 621.2

Those who are unwilling to deny self, to agonize before God, to pray long and earnestly for His blessing, will not obtain it. **Wrestling with God—how few know what it is! How few have ever had their souls drawn out after God with intensity of desire until every power is on the stretch. When waves of despair which no language can express sweep over the suppliant, how few cling with unyielding faith to the promises of God.**

GC 621.2

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

2 Corinthians 4:17

Let none be discouraged in view of the severe trials to be met in the time of Jacob's trouble, which is yet before them. They are to work earnestly, anxiously, not for that time, but for **today**. What we want is to have a **knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ now, and a personal experience now**. In these precious closing hours of probation, **we have a deep and living experience to gain**. We shall thus form characters that **will ensure our deliverance in the time of trouble**.

OHC 321.2

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