

Psalm eleven says, *“The Lord tests the righteous and the wicked.”* There are numerous situations throughout the entire Bible where He does this and the various reasons and instruments He uses are also provided.

Below we will give just one example from the New Testament. It is found in the Book of Acts chapter twenty-one, where, in this case, the test is centred on one’s firm resolve.

We read that while the Apostle Paul was at Tyre, believers there told him through the Spirit not to go on to Jerusalem. A little later, while he was in Caesarea, a Prophet by the name of Agabus came down from Judea and showed him that he would be arrested in Jerusalem and given over to the Gentiles. And when the brothers heard this, they began to urge him not to go.

As with other difficult biblical passages, a variety of explanations have been put forward to explain this incident. One of the most common is that Paul’s last journey was made contrary to the will of the Holy Spirit and in opposition to definite warning.

But this does not stand the test of Scripture, or even Paul’s character. When the prophecy later came to pass and he was imprisoned, we are told, *“the Lord stood near him,”* and told him that as he had testified in Jerusalem, he was now to testify in Rome!