

Stability In Your Times

Isaiah 33:6, *"And He shall be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; The fear of the Lord is his treasure."* (NASV)

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This World Can Be A Cruel Place

- ▶ 1 Peter 1:6–7, *"Herein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, ye have been put to grief in manifold trials, that the proof of your faith, (being) more precious than gold that perisheth though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ"*

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- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8–9, *"Be sober, be watchful: your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour, whom withstand stedfast in your faith, knowing that the same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world."*
- ▶ 2 Timothy 3:12, *"Yea, and all that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."*

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"There shall be stability in thy times" Isaiah 33:6 (ASV)

In the days of Isaiah (ca. 700 BC), the kingdom of Judah was facing perilous times ...

- ▶ As Assyria drew near to Jerusalem, the people were undecided as to where to turn. Isaiah 30:10ff; Isaiah 31:1ff
 - Some advocated they give themselves up to the Assyrians. Isaiah 36
 - Others looked to the south, believing an alliance with Egypt would save them. Isaiah 30:6ff.
- ▶ Isaiah was sent by God to warn the people to do neither.

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The Unstable Conditions Of Today.

- ▶ Many are common in every age – cf. Job 14:1
 - Sickness (Coronavirus, etc.)
 - Death
 - Natural disasters (Fire, Earthquakes, Hurricanes, Flooding, etc.)
- ▶ Some may be peculiar to our day and age
 - Environmental pollution
 - Economic problems, unemployment
 - AIDS, cancer, heart disease
 - Rage, Riots, drive-by shootings

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The Effect Of Such Things

- ▶ Anxiety and fear.
- ▶ Others react with depression (our age has been called the "age of anxiety" and the "age of the neurosis").
- ▶ Christians can be affected.
 - They may murmur or complain.
 - They may simply exist ("joylessness").

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Yet Some Are Not Disturbed By Such Things.

- ▶ Even though they experience the same things which devastate others. James 1:2
- ▶ The same financial crises, diseases, uncertainties, etc. Philippians 4:10-13
- ▶ Somehow they still find cause for great joy and stability in their lives!
- ▶ Why the different reaction?

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How? *“Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times” (NKJV)*

- ▶ By guiding and protecting one from the pitfalls of life. Proverbs 2:1-5, 6-22
- ▶ By providing comfort and confidence in times of turmoil. Proverbs 3:13-26
- ▶ God is willing to provide such wisdom to those willing to look to Him! James 1:5-8

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How?

- ▶ **“Abundance (strength NKJV) of salvation”**
 - The salvation of the Lord can help us face DEATH
 - If we know the Lord will save us in eternity, we can better face the adverse circumstances of this life.
- ▶ **The Example of Paul:**
 - He had a strong hope. 2 Corinthians 5:1, 5-8
 - His attitude as a result of that hope. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Romans 8:18, 31-39
 - His instruction: *“lay hold on the life eternal”* 1 Timothy 6:12
- ▶ **The Example of Abraham.** Hebrews 11:10

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- ▶ Wisdom, knowledge, and salvation found only in the Lord provides the stability we need for our times!
 - **Wisdom** and **knowledge** providing stability in facing life.
 - **Salvation** providing stability to face death. Together they provide great *“wealth” (NASB), a “rich store” (NIV).*

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What Is The Key To This Stability?

- ▶ *“The fear of the Lord is his treasure.” NASB*
- ▶ *“The fear of the Lord is Zion’s treasure.” ESV*
- ▶ *“The fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.” NIV*

Essential.

- ▶ It is *“the beginning of knowledge.”* Proverbs 1:7
- ▶ It is *“the beginning of wisdom.”* Proverbs 9:10
- ▶ To be accepted by God. Acts 10:34-35
- ▶ The message of salvation is given to those who have it. Acts 13:26
- ▶ For spiritual growth. Philippians 2:12

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Why The Fear Of The Lord Is Necessary.

- ▶ Proverbs 16:6, *“By the fear of Jehovah men depart from evil.”* cf. Romans 3:9-18
 - By departing from evil, we turn to God!
- ▶ Proverbs 14:26-27, *“In the fear of Jehovah is strong confidence; And his children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of Jehovah is a fountain of life, That one may depart from the snares of death.”*

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Conclusion:

1. Those who lack stability in troubled times do so because they lack the wisdom, knowledge, and salvation of the Lord.
 2. They lack these things because they do not have the fear of the Lord!
 3. A proper fear of the Lord would prompt them to turn from evil and turn to God.
 - Where they would find His knowledge, wisdom, and salvation.
 - Which in turn would provide “The Stability Of Your Times”!
- ▶ With such stability, we can rightly say along with the writer to the Hebrews:
“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me?” (Hebrews 13:6)

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