**BEING STABLE IN UNSTABLE TIMES OF TODAY**

[**Isaiah 33:5-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isaiah%2033.5-6)

KING JAMES BIBLE

33 Woe to thee that spoilest, and thou wast not spoiled; and dealest treacherously, and they dealt not treacherously with thee! when thou shalt cease to spoil, thou shalt be spoiled; and when thou shalt make an end to deal treacherously, they shall deal treacherously with thee.2 O Lord, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee: be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.3 At the noise of the tumult the people fled; at the lifting up of thyself the nations were scattered.4 And your spoil shall be gathered like the gathering of the caterpiller: as the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them.5 The Lord is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness.6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.7 Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.8 The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man.9 The earth mourneth and languisheth: Lebanon is ashamed and hewn down: Sharon is like a wilderness; and Bashan and Carmel shake off their fruits.10 Now will I rise, saith the Lord; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself.

GOOD NEWS BIBLE TRANSLATION

33 Our enemies are doomed! They have robbed and betrayed, although no one has robbed them or betrayed them. But their time to rob and betray will end, and they themselves will become victims of robbery and treachery.2 Lord, have mercy on us. We have put our hope in you. Protect us day by day and save us in times of trouble. 3 When you fight for us, nations run away from the noise of battle. 4 Their belongings are pounced upon and taken as loot.5 How great the Lord is! He rules over everything. He will fill Jerusalem with justice and integrity 6 and give stability to the nation. He always protects his people and gives them wisdom and knowledge. Their greatest treasure is their reverence for the Lord.7 The brave are calling for help. The ambassadors who tried to bring about peace are crying bitterly. 8 The highways are so dangerous that no one travels on them. Treaties are broken and agreements are violated. No one is respected any more. 9 The land lies idle and deserted. The forests of Lebanon have withered, the fertile valley of Sharon is like a desert, and in Bashan and on Mount Carmel the leaves are falling from the trees. 10 10Now will I rise, saith the Lord; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself.

**INTRODUCTION**

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

 a. Assyria was advancing from the north, conquering kingdom after kingdom

 b. Even the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity

2. As Assyria drew near to Jerusalem, the people were undecided as to where to turn...

**What happens next is where all their problems really began.**

**This Morning I want to address all the Fathers/Mothers who are also Fathers....In this area...."How to be Stable in Unstable Times".**

The Israelites found themselves in place called between a Rock and a Hard Place.....and this condition invited......

(Perplexity to visit the weak, nerves become un rattled, dissention amongst people set in, disharmony took over, many unwise decisions were about to be made, fear weakened the mighty, finally instability sets in and it destabilized and was about to destroy them from within.)

a. Some of the counseling leaders advocated they give themselves up to the Assyrians

 b. Others looked to the south, believing an alliance with Egypt would save them.(what go back to "leeks and onions."

 c. But God Stepped in......

 3. Isaiah was sent by God to warn the people to do neither...

 a. The key to their salvation was to trust in the Lord, not men

b. The Lord would provide the stability they needed, when all seemed lost

4. In [**Isa 33:5-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2033.5-6) we find one such exhortation to put their trust in the Lord...

 a. The scripture speaks of wisdom and knowledge as **"the stability of your times";** of course it is the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord spoken of here.

 b. **Note other translations**:

1) **"He shall be the stability of your times"** (NASB)

2) **"He shall be the sure foundation of your times"** (NIV)

 5. Though we are now many years away from the days of Isaiah ...

 a. The counsel given by him still rings true!

b. In troubled times, the Lord provides **"The Stability Of Your Times"**!

[To illustrate how this is true even today, let's begin by noticing the unstable condition of our times and the effect such instability can have on people...]

**I. THE UNSTABLE CONDITIONS OF TODAY**

**A. WE FACE MANY DISTURBING THINGS IN LIFE...**

1. Many are common in every age - cf. [**Job 14:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Job%2014.1) ***"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.)***

a. Sickness

b. Death

c. Natural disasters

2. Some may be peculiar to our day and age

 a. Threat of nuclear holocaust, environmental pollution

b. Inflation, recession, unemployment, economic losses

c. AIDS, cancer, heart disease

d. Road rage, drive-by shootings

**B. THE AFFECT SUCH THINGS CAN HAVE...**

1. For some, there is anxiety and fear

2. Others react with depression (our age has been called the "age of anxiety" and the "age of the neurosis")

3. Even Christians can be affected

a. They may murmur or complain

b. They may simply exist in a state of "joylessness"

 **C. YET SOME ARE NOT DISTURBED BY SUCH THINGS...**

1. Even though they experience the same things which devastate others

2. The same financial crises, diseases, uncertainties, etc. -- Somehow they still find cause for great joy and stability in their lives!

[Why the different reaction?

Is there some source of strength that some have found that others have not?

I believe there is; it is the LORD who provides stability for troubled times!

From our text ([**Isa 33:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2033.6)**) 6 And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure**

**we learn how the Lord provides stability...]**

**II. THE STABILITY PROVIDED BY THE LORD**

**A. COMES THROUGH WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE...**

1. **"Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times"**

 2. Such wisdom and knowledge can help us face LIFE

 a. By guiding and protecting one from the pitfalls of life -

[**Pr 2:6-22**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%202.6-22) When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

b. By providing comfort and confidence in times of turmoil -

[**Pr 3:21-26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%203.21-26) --21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.26 For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

 God is willing to provide such wisdom to those willing to look to Him! -

[**Jm 1:5-8**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Jm%201.5-8) ***....5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.***

**B. COMES THROUGH SALVATION...**

1. **"the strength of salvation"**

2. The salvation of the Lord can help us face DEATH

a. If we know the Lord will save us in eternity, we can better face the adverse circumstances of this life

b. Consider the example of Paul:

1) He had a strong hope -

2) His attitude changed as a result of that hope -

[**2Co 4:16-18**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2Co%204.16-18)**.....*16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.***

[**Ro 8:31-39**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ro%208.31-39) ***31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

[Yes, the 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" , a "rich store"

. But what is the key to this treasure of wisdom, knowledge and salvation from the Lord which is **"The Stability Of Your Times"**?

In our text ([Isa 33:6](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Isa%2033.6)) we find...]

**III. THE KEY TO THIS STABILITY**

**A. IT IS "THE FEAR OF THE LORD"...**

1. Note the: **"the fear of the LORD is the key to this treasure"**

 2. As noted elsewhere, the fear of the Lord is essential:

a. To having wisdom and knowledge

1) It is "the beginning of knowledge" -

[**Pr 1:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%201.7) ....***7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

2) It is "the beginning of wisdom" -

[**Pr 9:10**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%209.10) ....***10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.***

b. To receiving salvation

1) It is necessary to be accepted by God -

 [**Ac 10:34-35**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2010.34-35) ....***34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.***

2) The message of salvation is given to those who have it -

[**Ac 13:26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Ac%2013.26) ....***26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.***

3) It is necessary for spiritual growth -

[**Philip 2:12**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Php%202.12) ....***12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.***

**B. WHY THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS NECESSARY...**

1. **"...by the fear of the Lord one departs from evil" -**

[**Pr 16:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2016.6) ....***6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.***

a. A reverence for God and His righteous judgments is an effective motivation

b. By departing from evil, we turn to God!

2. **"In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence...a place of refuge"**

 **-** [**Pr 14:26**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Pr%2014.26)

a. When we turn to God, the fear of the Lord becomes a source of great blessings!

b. Such as wisdom, knowledge, salvation, confidence, refuge; indeed **"the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life"**! -

**Pro 14:27**

**CONCLUSION**

1. The essence of this message this morning is to inspire us all.......

 a. Those who lack stability in troubled times do so because they lack the wisdom, knowledge, and salvation of the Lord

b. They lack these things because they do not have the fear of the Lord!

2. A proper fear of the Lord would prompt them to turn from evil and turn to God...

a. Where they would find His knowledge, wisdom, and salvation

b. Which in turn would provide **"The Stability Of Your Times"!**

3. With such stability, we can rightly say along with the writer to the Hebrews:

***"The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"***

**(**[**He 13:6**](http://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/He%2013.6)**)**

Won't you let the Lord provide you with the stability you need for these troubled times?

**God has not promised, But God has promised, Skies always blue Strength for the day, Flower-strewn pathways, Rest for the labor, All our lives through; Light for the way; God has not promised, Yes, God has promised, Sun without rain, Grace for the trials, Joy without sorrow, Help from above, Peace without pain. Unfailing sympathy, undying love.**