



Stability in Unstable Times

“There shall be stability in our times, an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge: the reverent fear of the Lord is our key to this treasure” Isa 33:6, NIV

Introduction

- *“What in the World is Going On?” - in a 24 hour period in 2008*
 - *Virus outbreak in China infecting 10’s of thousands*
 - *Housing defaults at a rate superseding Depression*
 - *Financial institutions filing for bankruptcy*
 - *Oil costs soared to highest levels ever recorded*
 - *Food shortages created by the drive for bio-fuel*
 - *160 mph cyclone in Myanmar killing 84,000 and leaving 2.5 million homeless – warned 6 days before*
 - *Extinct volcano erupts in the Chilean mountains after 9,000 years of dormancy – people warned and only one loss of life*
 - *7.9 earthquake hits mainland China (70,000 killed)*

Four Months and One Week

- *The world is a different place in a four month time*
 - *Financially, economically, unemployment, famine, outbreaks of disease, etc*
 - *Hab 2:6-10 speaks to this – “Who do you think you are - - - you’ve engineered the ruin of your own house. In ruining others you’ve ruined yourself. You’ve undermined your foundations, and rotted out your own soul” (The Message)*
- *Canada has been hit this last week, and we have watched our nation leave its safe harbor and venture out where the global crisis is*
 - *Pr 29:4; 28:2; Ps 11:3; Ps 82:5 – “all the foundations of the earth are shaking”*

Understanding the Times

- Jesus spoke of “**knowing the signs of the last days**” and preparing ourselves (Matt 24)
 - Wars and rumors of wars
 - Nation rising against nation, kingdom vs kingdom
 - Famines and earthquakes (just the beginning)
 - Christians (and their values) persecuted
 - Many turning from faith, betraying one another
 - False prophets
 - Increase in wickedness, love of many will grow cold
 - Gospel will be preached in the whole world
 - Great distress, unequalled from the beginning until now
 - “he who stands firm to the end shall be saved”
 - “the sign of the Son of Man shall appear in the sky”
 - Christ will come again, this time in power

Forewarned and Prepared

- *How should we the live?*
 - *Tribulation or Millennial theology of the last days*
 - *My personal philosophy of life:*
 - *Live today in the light of the possibility that Christ may return at any moment, and things must be current*
 - *Work today with the understanding the Jesus may not come back for awhile and we need to continue to build*
 - *St. Francis of Assisi's comment*
- *How do we find stability in unstable times?*
 - *Stability means “resistance to change, deterioration or displacement; constancy in character and purpose; reliable; the ability to maintain equilibrium and movement”*

1st Key to the Treasure of Stability

- *You must secure yourself to the One Who cannot be shaken, who establishes firm foundations in everything that He builds*
 - *Heb 11:10 - “builds cities with fixed foundations”*
 - *Ps 104:5 - “Set the earth on its foundations: it can never be removed”*
 - *1 Kings 7:15 - He set and named the pillars in the construction of His house - Security and Stability*
 - *Ps 40:2 - “He draws people out of pits of their own making, miry clay of circumstances, and sets our feet upon a rock, establishing our steps”*
- *“If you are undergirded by God in these unstable days, you will not be undermined by circumstances”*
 - *The day of salvation is now*

2nd Key to the Treasure of Stability

- *Isa 33:6 exhorts us to seek the “fear of the Lord”*
 - *This is the beginning of wisdom (Pr 1:8)*
 - *The “fear of the Lord” must overwhelm every fear*
 - *Worship must replace worry*
 - *A pursuit of godliness must replace a love of worldliness*
 - *His thoughts are higher, His emotions are more stable – filled with peace about situations, His word is more credible, His acts are filled with integrity*
 - *1 John 2:15-17 – we must reject the world’s ways, the world as our source and value system, the love of things, the pride of life – assurance based upon personal strength and independence*
 - *Do what God does and you will be set for eternity*

Conclusion

- *Isa 58:8-10 tells us what to do when we don't know*

"If you get rid of unfair practices, quit blaming victims, quit gossiping about other people's sins. If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places— firm muscles, strong bones.

- *You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build a new, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again"*

Conclusion

- God has **an ark** for His people in unstable times
 - He knows how to **rescue the righteous**
 - He knows how to **provide a way of escape**
 - He knows how to **deliver us from all of our fears**
 - He knows how to **direct us along straight paths**
 - He knows how to **increase us in times of diminishment**
 - He knows how to **help us make spiritual advancement in times of crisis**
- Isa 33:6 – Isaiah promised this: say this with me -
“there shall be stability in my days, an abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the reverent fear and worship of the Lord is the key to my treasure”