

Over the years, whenever I've been asked by someone, "What book in the Bible would you recommend to read first?", I've shared this, "For the New Testament, I suggest the Gospel of John because of its focus on the person of Jesus – His deity and His humanity." But I always add, "You also need to read the Book of Isaiah because it speaks powerfully of the sovereignty and faithfulness of God."

Personally, I'm always drawn back to Isaiah for encouragement and renewed grounding in my faith. So, it didn't surprise me when I recently read a couple verses that spoke to the challenge of life today in a Covid-19 environment.

Isaiah 33:5-6 *The LORD is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with justice and righteousness, and he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.*

The phrase that got my attention was, *he will be the stability of your times*. How perfect that truth is for any life situation we find ourselves in, not just a coronavirus time. This is the only place in the Bible where the word *stability* is used. A literal reading of the Hebrew for that phrase is: "He will be the faithfulness of your times."

The desire for *stability* is huge for each one of us. Everyone I know wants a stable mind, a stable personality, a stable marriage and stable relationships, stable health, stable finances, a stable economy, society, country, world – a stable life. And, for my selfish desire, I want a stable running shoe. The reality is *stability* is important to each of us.

When life is unstable, when circumstances create an imbalance, when events make us feel unhinged, we want something that will hold us upright, that will keep us from wobbling spiritually, emotionally, mentally, and attitudinally.

Remember those little gyroscopes that you would spin, and they'd rotate until their energy ran out, and then they'd begin to wobble and eventually drop and tumble to a stop. Sometimes life feels like that.

Have you ever wanted "friends in high places" who could fix a problem for you? Well, we've got a friend in the Lord who occupies the highest possible place – *he dwells on high*. This "friend" relationship with God opens up to us the treasures of heaven – and what wonderful treasures they are: *salvation, wisdom and knowledge*.

We're saved from a life of being captive to our selfishness and pride. We know the meaning of life. We know the nature of God and the world. We know who, and whose, we are and where we're going. We have wisdom from on high to direct our lives for God's glory, which ultimately brings us peace and contentment.

When everything else is shaking under our feet, the Lord is our *stability*. Trusting Him, when we're tempted to look elsewhere, is what faith is all about. The key to the treasure of joy and shalom in the midst of the battle is trusting the LORD to be *the stability of (y)our times*.

No matter what difficult challenges we face, or changes we must confront, whether now or in the future, we can know the *stability* of God's love for us in Christ.

Bonus: If you ever visit New York City and have an opportunity to stop by 30 Rockefeller Plaza, an American Art Deco skyscraper built in 1933, you will note the

saying “wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times” over one of the main entrances.

Interesting, isn't it, how God's truth is never outdated or obsolete.