

Wisdom in Turbulent End-Times (Part 1)

Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Luke 21:10-11

10 Then He said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **11** And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Luke 21:25-26, 28

25 And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

26 men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

28 Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Luke 21:34-36

34 But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. **35** For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **36** Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Romans 1:21, 23

21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Romans 1:26-27

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

Romans 1:29-32

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, **30** backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, **31** undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; **32** who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.



Scriptures regarding Turbulent End-Times

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: **2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, **4** traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **5** having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!



I. The worst of times, the best of times.



I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Genesis 6:5, 11-12

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. 12 So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth.

I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Matthew 24:6-8, 12 - worst of times

6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

I. The worst of times,
the best of times.

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Ephesians 5:26-27

26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, **27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.





I. The worst of times, the best of times.

Isaiah 60:2-3

2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

We need the wisdom from God to thrive in turbulent end-times.

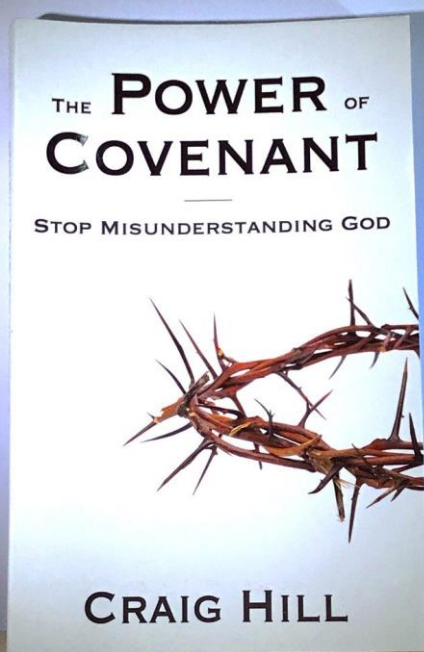
Isaiah 33:6 Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation; the fear of the Lord is His treasure.



We need the wisdom from God to thrive in turbulent end-times.

Jeremiah 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

Wisdom begins with knowing & understanding God!



We need the wisdom from God to **thrive** in turbulent end-times.

Turbulent end-times = pain and sufferings; trials and calamities.

Why is there turbulent end-times?

**What are the sources
and origins of turbulent
end-times?**



II. Understand what is God's Will.

2 Greek Words in English for Will in the Bible:

A. **Boulema**

pre-set determined unchanging purpose / plan
(Acts 27:43; Romans 9:19; 1 Peter 4:3)

B. **Thelema**

a wish / desire dependent on the choice of others



II. Understand what is God's Will.

2 Greek Words in English for Will in the Bible:

A. Boulema

pre-set determined unchanging purpose / plan
(Acts 27:43; Romans 9:19; 1 Peter 4:3)

B. Thelema

a wish / desire dependent on the choice of others

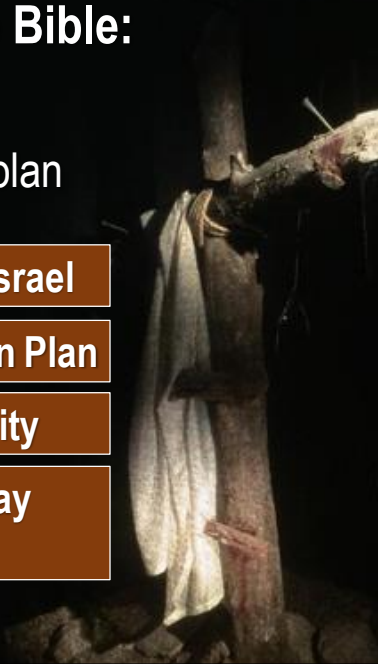


2 Greek Words in English for Will in the Bible:

A. Boulema

pre-set determined unchanging purpose / plan

The Second Coming of Christ		The Nation of Israel	
The Anti-Christ	Judgements	God's Redemption Plan	
The Church	The Rapture	Time & Eternity	
Jesus to come as Son of Man to die and to pay the penalty for our sins			



II. Understand what is God's Will.

2 Greek Words in English for Will in the Bible:

A. Boulema

pre-set determined unchanging purpose / plan
(Acts 27:43; Romans 9:19; 1 Peter 4:3)

B. Thelema

a wish / desire dependent on the choice of others



2 Greek Words in English for Will:

B. Thelema

wishes dependent on the choice of others

Healing

Marriage

Family

Salvation [2 Peter 3:9]

Integrity

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live ...



III. 2-Key Truths to know from the Sovereignty of God.

In God's Sovereignty, He has already allowed / permitted / sanctioned / authorized:

A. The Free Will of Man.

B. The Laws and Principles of Life for Man on Earth.

Man will reap what he sows accordingly.

Choices & Consequences

IV. Interpreting Scriptures and Hebraic Writings.

Psalm 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

- A. The language of the OT (Hebrews) attributes everything to God.
- B. But it is NOT God who did that specific act.
- C. Understand the underlying principle.

IV. Interpreting Scriptures and Hebraic Writings - e.g. 1

1 Samuel 2:25 If one man sins against another, God will judge him. But if a man sins against the Lord, who will intercede for him?" Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father, because the Lord desired to kill them.

1 Samuel 2:17 Therefore the sin of the young men was very great before the Lord, for men abhorred the offering of the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:22 Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

IV. Interpreting Scriptures and Hebraic Writings - e.g. 2

1 Samuel 18:10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, ...

Ephesians 4:26-27

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,
27 nor give place to the devil.

1 Samuel 18:8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

V. Understanding **direct** sources of pain and sufferings.

Direct Sources of Pain & Sufferings

A. Common to Man - Fallen World

B. Due to the evil one

C. Due to our own "faults"

D. For righteousness sake

V. Understanding **direct** sources of pain and sufferings.

Direct Sources of Pain & Sufferings

A. Common to Man - Fallen World

B. Due to the evil one

C. Due to our own "faults"

D. For righteousness sake

A. The **Fallen-ness of Man** results in:

1. All kinds of **conflicts** between man.

Exploit the Ignorant

Fights

Quarrels

Murder

War

Robbery

Envy

Hatred

Covetousness

Offenses

Jealousy

Birth-pangs

Arguments

Taking Advantage of Others

Greed and its Consequences

Unforgiveness

Sins of the flesh - Galatians 5:19-21

A. The **Fallen-ness of Man** results in:

2. Physical **death**:

- **Hundreds** of years (Adam+)
- to **120** years (Noah+)
- to **80** years (Moses to now)
- **Aging Process** (affecting life-span)
- **Sickness** & **Disease**
- **Corruption** & **Mortality** of the physical body

A. The **Fallen-ness of Man** results in:

3. Fracture of the physical **earth** and corruption of the **environment**.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the **whole creation** **groans** and **labors** with **birth pangs** together until now.

Droughts and Floods

Tsunamis

Typhoons

Earthquakes

Tornadoes

Volcanic Eruptions

Extreme Weather resulting in Hurricanes

A. The **Fallen-ness of Man** results in:

4. The curse of **toil** in man's labour.

Genesis 3:17-19

17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "**Cursed is the ground** for your sake; in **toil** you shall eat of it all the days of your life. **18** Both **thorns and thistles** it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. **19** In the **sweat** of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."

A. The **Fallen-ness of Man** results in:

5. **Accidents** due to man's carelessness, blind spots, malfunction of machines, etc.
 - Wrong Time Wrong Place



A. The **Fallen-ness of Man**.

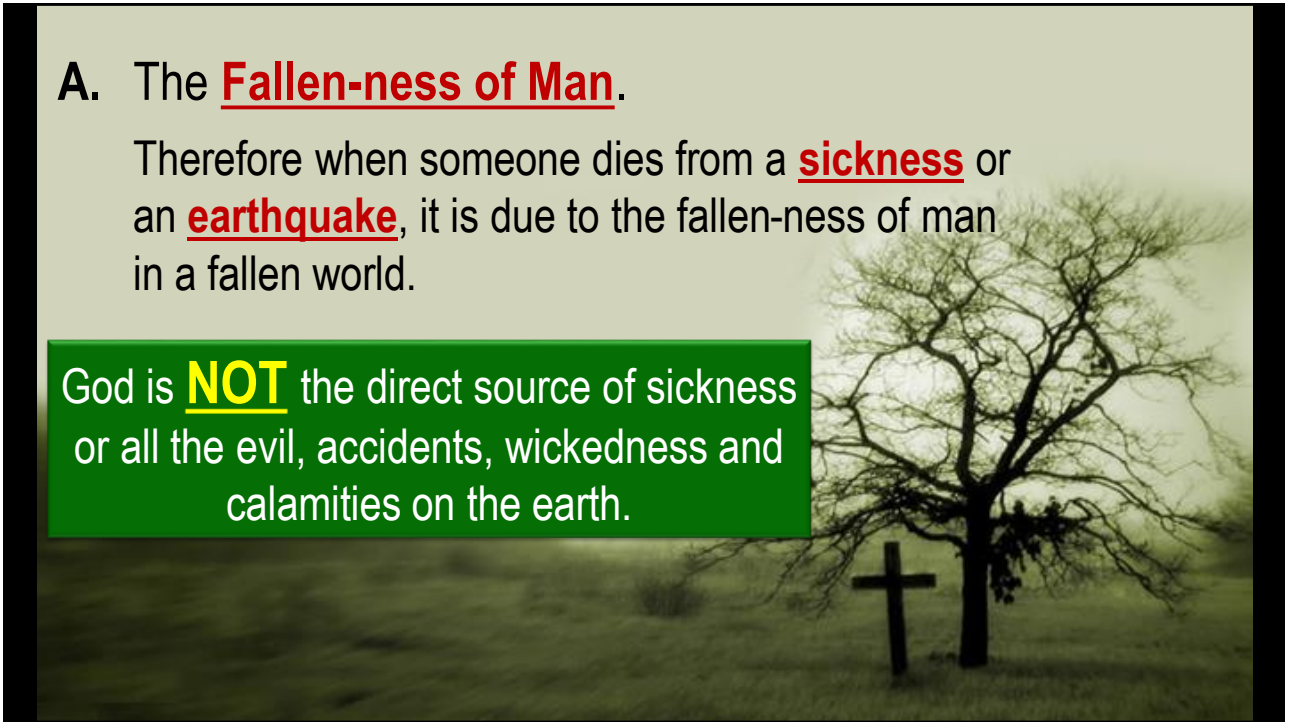
- “**Good**” things may happen to “**bad**” people;
- “**Bad**” things may happen to “**good**” people;
- “**Good**” people may suffer whilst “**bad**” people may not suffer.

Ecclesiastes 8:14 There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are **just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked**; again, there are **wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous**. I said that this also is vanity.

A. The Fallen-ness of Man.

Therefore when someone dies from a sickness or an earthquake, it is due to the fallen-ness of man in a fallen world.

God is **NOT** the direct source of sickness or all the evil, accidents, wickedness and calamities on the earth.



V. Understanding **direct** sources of pain and sufferings.

Direct Sources of Pain & Sufferings

A. Common to Man - Fallen World

B. Due to the evil one

C. Due to our own "faults"

D. For righteousness sake

B. The Evil One

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.



B. The Evil One

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.



RTF

V. Understanding **direct** sources of pain and sufferings.

Direct Sources of Pain & Sufferings

A. Common to Man - Fallen World

B. Due to the evil one

C. Due to our own **“faults”**

D. For righteousness sake

C. Due to our own **“faults”**.



1 Peter 2:20a For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently?

Faults: sins, weakness, infirmities, foibles, wrong doings..

1 Peter 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

V. Understanding **direct** sources of pain and sufferings.

Direct Sources of Pain & Sufferings

A. Common to Man - Fallen World

B. Due to the evil one

C. Due to our own "faults"

D. For righteousness sake

D. For righteousness sake. Persecution for our faith.



1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

D. For righteousness sake. Persecution for our faith.



1 Peter 4:13-14, 16

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, 14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. 16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

D. For righteousness sake. Persecution for our faith.

Examples of persecution personally:

Being mocked / jeered at when something goes wrong.
"So where is your God now? Why doesn't He help you?"

Being passed over for a promotion because
you refuse to compromise on your integrity.

Being ostracized from your
family and community because
of your faith.

Family upset with you for your
refusal to partake in idol worship,
ancestor worship etc

D. For righteousness sake. Persecution for our faith.

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.



D. For righteousness sake. Persecution for our faith.

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him.



The ultimate suffering for righteousness sake is martyrdom, but this is not for all believers.

All suffering by a believer is a trial of his faith.

This includes

1. Suffering in a fallen world - No choice
2. Suffering due to our own "faults" - Wrong choice
3. Suffering for righteousness sake - Right choice

God is NOT glorified in All our sufferings!
Only for Christ and Righteousness sake!

VI. Know that God is always good.

A. When bad things happen to us, we must know that God did not cause it

i.e. He is not the source or origin of the bad thing happening.

VI. Know that God is always good.

B. God is the giver of everything good.

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

VI. Know that God is always good.

C. We must live our lives in total dependence on God i.e. on His promises and covenant.

Luke 13:1-5

1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? **3** I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

VI. Know that God is always good.

C. We must live our lives in total dependence on God i.e. on His promises and covenant.

Luke 13:1-5

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, **do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men** who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

VI. Know that God is always good.

D1. Hence, we must pray.

D2. The Grace of God comes to us as someone prays.

D3. God does not unilaterally, randomly, or haphazardly intervene in the affairs on earth unless His people pray.

Matthew 6:10

Matthew 16:19

Matthew 18:18-19

VI. Know that God is always good.

E. God is good and is consistently good all the time.

Exodus 34:6-7a

6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, [slow to anger] and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin ...

BOTTOM-LINE - the LORD is GOOD!

Otherwise:

- doom to a life of despair
- tragedy becomes senseless
- adversity becomes endless frustration
- faith turns to doubt, anger and bitterness

1 John 1:5b God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.



Wisdom begins with knowing & understanding God!

BOTTOM-LINE - the LORD is GOOD!

Do **NOT** judge **God's Goodness** by your **circumstances**



See the Goodness of God at

Calvary's Cross!

Psalm 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

1 Peter 2:3

Psalm 65:11