

How to Live a Stable Life in this Very Unstable World

Bible Study Outline by Dr Graham Truscott

INTRO: We are living in a very unstable world. We are living in unstable times.

(1) LIFE is unstable:

**The POLITICAL scene is unstable;
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS are unstable;
The FINANCIAL MARKETS are unstable;
World COMMERCE is unstable;
GOVERNMENTS are unstable;
People's EMOTIONS are unstable;
INTER-PERSONAL relationships are unstable;
Many MARRIAGES and FAMILIES are unstable.**

(2) THE ELEMENTS are unstable:

**Earth, sea, skies – earthquakes, floods, droughts, tsunamis,
hurricanes.**

BECAUSE of the fact that everywhere we look we see situations that are unstable, multitudes of people are overcome with anxiety, fear, and depression.

Is there an answer to this great problem?

Is it possible to live a stable life in this very unstable world?

Yes it is!

READING: Matt 7:24-27

I THE TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS: WISE or FOOLISH

Jesus only used the word FOOLISH on 2 occasions; both in Matthew, the Gospel of the Kingdom.

- A. Matt 25: all 10 virgins were believers: virgins, lamps, oil, waiting for Bridegroom (Interestingly, only 5 virgins went with the Bridegroom into the wedding);**

- B. Matt 7: both builders are Christians; building a HOUSE. In NT language this can only mean that both builders were Christians:**
- 1. Individual Christian: 2 Cor 5:1 “earthly house of this tabernacle”; Heb 3:6: “Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.”**
 - 2. Local Church: 1 Tim 3:15 “how to behave in the house of God, which is the church of the living God ...”**
- C. 1. FOOLISH only heard the Word; no response, no action, no obedience;**
- 2. WISE heard and responded, obeyed.**

D. FLOODS CAME. (Not if, but when ...storms come to us all)

FLOOD = attacks of the enemy, hindrances, delays, challenges -- Isa 59:19b “When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. ”

WIND = false teaching, false concepts, Scriptures bent and twisted all out of proportion.

Eph 4:14 “We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.”

E. 1 FOOLISH MAN’S HOUSE FELL

2 WISE MAN’S STOOD STABLE AND FIRM; built upon a ROCK. FIRM FOUNDATION: 1 Cor 3:11 “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

II TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS -- STABLE OR UNSTABLE

A. THE WORD “UNSTABLE” OCCURS FOUR TIMES IN THE BIBLE – each reference clearly illustrates the root causes of instability:

- 1. Gen 49:4 The prophetic word that came to Reuben was that he was unstable, and that he would not excel = because HE WAS DISRESPECTFUL TO HIS FATHER .**

Oldest son, should have received the double portion. But Reuben failed to show proper respect and honour towards his father.

- Lost**
- i. Kingdom to Judah;**
- ii. Birthright (land) to Joseph;**
- iii. High Priesthood to Levi.**

There is nothing that will make a man or woman unstable more quickly than DISRESPECT.

- 2. Jas 1:8 “He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”
Double-minded *Gr dipsuchos* = having two souls.**

Why? Doubts the Word of God. Lacks wisdom, lacks faith.

- 3. 2 Pet 2:13,14 “These spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you
having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls.”
Enticed into immorality ... enticed into sin. Immorality quickly leads to instability, confusion, deception, and ultimately, to a very bad fall.**
- 4. 2 Pet 3:15,16 “As our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you,
as also in all his epistles speaking in them of these things in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.”
i.e. Not having a balanced view of the Word of God.**

B. A PERSON WHO IS NOT BUILDING HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK IS FOOLISH AND UNSTABLE:

- 1. Because they are not respectful,**
- 2. Because of immorality,**
- 3. Because of insufficient wisdom and faith,**
- 4. Because of lack of understanding of the Scriptures**

C. SO, IF YOU WANT TO BE STABLE:

- 1. Respect God’s appointed authority in your life;**
- 2. Don’t commit immorality -- single = total abstinence
married = total monogamy;**
- 3. Get understanding, get wisdom, get faith;**
- 4. Study the Scriptures, and be sure your perspective is
BALANCED.**

III THE ROCK

“The Rock” is one of the great themes of the Bible. *(For further details see my book **HERE COMES THE BRIDE! VOLUME TWO**, pages 339-341).*

The Lord Jesus Christ is:

- A. Our Rock of Salvation (Psa 18:1-3)
- B. Our Rock of Protection (Psa 62:2)
- C. Our Rock of the Fullness of Blessing ...the Five blessings from the Rock:
 - (i) Water from the Rock = the Waters of Salvation (Psa 78:16; Isa 48:21)
 - (ii) Snow from the Rock = Righteousness (Jer 18:14a; Job 38:22,23; Psa 147:16; Isa 1:18)
 - (iii) Honey from the Rock = the Word of God (Deut 32:13; Psa 81:16; Psa 19:7-10; Eze 3:3; Rev 10:9,10)
 - (iv) Oil from the Rock = the Anointing (Job 29:6; Deut 32:13; Psa 45:7)
 - (v) Fire from the Rock = Trials and Testings (Judg 6:21; 1 Pet 1:7, 4:12)

V THE SHAKING -- Heb 12:25-27

We have received a kingdom that **WILL BE SHAKEN**, but will **NOT BE MOVED AND WILL NOT FALL**.

Will not fall into temptation

Will not fall into sin

Will not fall into spiritual apathy

Will not fall into blindness, not knowing what God is doing.

V HOW TO BE STABLE

1. Rom 16:25: “Now to Him who is able to establish -- stabilize -- you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began”

2. **1 Thess 3:12, 13:** “May the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,
so that He may establish -- stabilize -- your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”
3. **2 Thess 2:16:17:** “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.”
4. **James 5:7,8:** “Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.
You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

**By building the house of our life on the Rock,
By hearing and responding to the Words of Jesus
By enjoying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit like latter rain**

**YOU CAN LIVE A LIFE OF STABILITY AND SECURITY IN THE
MIDST OF AN UNSTABLE WORLD.**

Remember 1 Cor 10:4: “They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God’s fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ – (*Message Bible*).

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Matt 7:24-27

I THE TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS: WISE or FOOLISH

- A. **Matt 25:** **The wise and foolish virgins**
- B. **Matt 7:** **The wise and foolish builders**
 - HOUSE =** 1. **Individual Christian**
 - 2. **Local Church**
- C. 1. **FOOLISH: no response, no action, no obedience;**
 2. **WISE: heard and responded, obeyed**
- D. **FLOODS CAME**
- E. 1. **Foolish man's house fell**
 2. **Wise man's house stood stable**

II TWO KINDS OF CHRISTIANS -- STABLE or UNSTABLE

- A. **"UNSTABLE"**
 - 1. **Gen 49:4 -- Disrespectful**
 - 2. **Jas 1:8 -- Double-minded**
 - 3. **2 Pet 2:13,14 -- Immoral**
 - 4. **2 Pet 3:15,16 -- Unbalanced**
- B. **A PERSON WHO IS NOT BUILDING HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK
IS FOOLISH AND UNSTABLE**
- C. **SO IF YOU WANT TO BE STABLE:**

1. RESPECT God's appointed authority;
2. DON'T commit immorality;
3. GET understanding;
4. STUDY the Scriptures

III THE ROCK

A. OUR ROCK OF SALVATION -- Psa 18:1-3

B. OUR ROCK OF PROTECTION -- Psa 62:2

C. OUR ROCK OF THE FULLNESS OF BLESSING:

1. Water -- Psa 78:16; Isa 48:21
2. Snow -- Jer 18:14; Isa 1:18
3. Honey -- Deut 32:13; Psa 81:16; Psa 19:7-10
4. Oil -- Job 29:6; Deut 32:13
5. Fire -- Judg 6:21; 1 Pet 1:7

IV THE SHAKING -- Heb 12:25-27

V HOW TO BE STABLE

1. Rom 16:25
2. 1 Thess 3:12,13
3. 2 Thess 2:16,17
4. James 5:7,8