

WHERE TO LOOK IN TROUBLED TIMES

#1-WE NEED TO LOOK UP!

John 16:33; Psalm 46:1-3

Introduction

There is no doubt that these days we live in are some troubled times!

We don't have to look any further than just the most recent troubling events. (The Boston Marathon Massacre; West, Texas Fertilizer Plant Explosion; various madmen shooting innocents in what should be safe, public places; and a madman dictator in North Korea threatening nuclear attacks.)

There is also much uncertainty and a continuing feed of troubling news that comes to us regarding other things such as the economy, the many unknowns about the misnamed Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare), and the ever burgeoning national debt just to name a few.

Of course part of our problem stems from the fact that we are bombarded with a constant barrage of detailed reports of so much of the evil going on as it unfolds—whether it be from one of the major news outlets or from the various social media. Even if you wanted to shelter yourself from the news its difficult to do in our day and time.

When something spreads fast in our day it is referred to as “going viral.” In fact, we hear that terminology on an increasing basis as our lives are bombarded with and infected with mostly bad news!

People are longing for some peace in this troubled world. Where should we look in troubled times to find some peace? Well, we most certainly cannot look to the news outlets, the social media, or any other worldly source.

Look at what Jesus told his disciples in John 16:33.

I believe that the Bible reveals at least five places that we should look during troubled times and I want to share those with you one at a time over the course of the next five weeks:

- We Need To Look Up.
- We Need To Look Back.
- We Need To Look Out.
- We Need To Look In.
- We Need To Look Forward.

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This morning I think it appropriate for us to examine the very first item on this list because it stands out first and foremost to the child of God! Not only that, but it is the only direction that we can look in order to get direction for where else we need to look! **We find in our text in Psalm 46:1-3 that we need to look up!**

I. WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR SHELTER!

Vs 1–“*God is our refuge. . .*”

The word “*refuge*” means “*shelter*.”

A shelter is a place where you get can find a covering!
A shelter is a place where you can hide from an enemy!
A shelter is a place where you can escape from a storm!

The words of the hymn “*A Shelter In The Time Of Storm.*” were penned by Ira D. Sankey. Listen to them:

*“The Lord’s our Rock, in Him we hide, Secure whatever ill betide.
A shade by day, defense by night, No fears alarm, no foes affright.
The raging storms may round us beat, We’ll never leave our safe
retreat. O Rock divine, O Refuge dear, Be Thou our helper ever near.”*

Chorus

“Oh Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A shelter in the time of storm.”

Oh my friend, listen—we need a shelter in the time of the storm!

A. God Provides The Only Real Shelter From The Terror Of Sin In Our Lives! (Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8)

After Adam and Eve sinned, they tried to hide from God among the trees of the Garden of Eden!

But, there was nowhere to run to except **God’s shelter of mercy!** And there was nowhere to hide except **under God’s shelter of grace!**

Many people are on the run from God because of sin in their lives! May I say to you that you may try to run from God, but you cannot hide from God! Look at **Psalm 139**

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We live in a sin cursed world, and sin can bring terror to our lives!

1. **Sin Can Bring Havoc Into Our Lives!**

We have sickness because of sin!

We have sorrow because of sin!

We have death because of sin!

Everything that is wrong with this world is because of sin!

2. **Sin Can Bring Hell Into Our Deaths!**

The greatest terror that anyone will ever face is because of sin!

1 Corinthians 15:56–57--“The sting of death is sin...

But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”

For a person to die in their sin is the worst thing imaginable for that person!

Matthew 10:28--“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

B. **God Provides The Only Real Shelter From The Terror Of Sinful Men In Our Lives! (Psalm 18:1-6)**

David wrote this Psalm as God delivered him during a time when he was being hunted like an animal.

(Cf. 2 Samuel 22:1-51 which says the same thing as Psalm 18!)

The terror of ungodly people is nothing new! **(Psalm 2:1-3)**

As long as we live here on this earth, we will have ungodly men to deal with!

Isaiah 50:20-21--“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

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We cannot deliver ourselves from the terrors of sinful men! Only God can! But, over and over again, each and every day, folks in this world look to make their own peace or look to some man for peace rather than falling at the feet of the Prince of Peace!

C. **God Provides The Only Real Shelter From The Terror Of Satan In Our Lives! (1 Peter 5:8)**

In our last two Sunday evening sermons, we've seen how that:

1. **Satan Is Out To Destroy Our Country!**

2. **Satan Is Out To Destroy Our Churches!**

3. **Satan Is Out To Destroy Our Children!**

4. **Satan Is Out To Destroy Our Core (Us Personally)!**

Luke 22:31--“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee. . .”

Ephesians 6:11--“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ”

1 John 2:1-2--“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

D. **God Provides The Only Real Shelter From The Terror Of Storms In Our Lives!**

Job 14:1--“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”

We live in a sin cursed world laden with iniquity and there are ALWAYS consequences of iniquity!

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Romans 8:35—“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

Romans 8:37-39—“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 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.”

WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR SHELTER!

From The Terrors Of Sin.

From The Terrors Of Sinful Men.

From The Terrors Of Satan.

From The Terrors Of Storms.

II. WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR STRENGTH!

Psalm 46:1—“God is our refuge and strength. . .”

God Forbid That We Should Ever Place Our Confidence In Men!

Psalm 118:9—“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.”

Psalm 33:16-18—“There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;”

Psalm 20:7—“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.”

Proverbs 21:31—“The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.”

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We need to look to God as the source of our strength!

Ephesians 6:10—“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”

Psalm 138:3—“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.”

WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR SHELTER!

WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR STRENGTH!

III. WE NEED TO LOOK UP TO GOD FOR STABILITY!

Psalm 46:2—“Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.”

There are some whose very foundation is rocked by what they see happening around them in this world!

Some begin to doubt the goodness of God.

Some begin to doubt the grace of God.

Some begin to doubt the greatness of God.

Many people have no stability in their lives because they don't have God in their lives!

They are tossed about with every fearful event that happens!

Their lives are full of fear, insecurity and instability!

Thank God that in **Him**, we have no need to worry or to fear!

Conclusion

Where are you looking in these troubled times?

Do you have a Shelter in which you can hide?

Do you have a Strength in which you can trust?

Do you have a Stability which will never fail you?