

The Times of Your Life

ILLUMINATE

Isaiah 33:2-6

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. At the sound of tumult, peoples fled; before your majesty, nations scattered. Spoil was gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, they leaped^[a] upon it. The LORD is exalted; he dwells on high; he filled Zion with justice and righteousness; he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure.

This passage seems fitting as we think about the new year, given how easily we feel apprehensive and anxious amidst our accelerated times. On top of that, unexpected events in our lives can leave us reeling. In verse 6, the Lord is described as the "stability of our times." **How did you sense God's presence during the busyness of the holidays? When have you felt God provide stability in a time of change or uncertainty in your life?**

Embracing holy moments, as Stephen mentioned, can give us a sense of stability and gratitude. From the air we breathe or the food we eat, to the sacred moments of saying I love you or holding a newborn baby's hand - we experience God in these moments and time can feel suspended. **Can you think of a recent holy moment in your life where you felt a deep stability and gratitude? How do these moments make us feel closer to God?**

Stephen reminded us that though the Lord is very great and dwells in heaven, He will make our place His home for all that is good and right. Verse 6 speaks of God providing an "abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge." **When you hear the words salvation, wisdom, and knowledge, what comes to mind? How can this promise shape our approach to the unknowns and challenges of the new year?**

In verse 2, God is described as being the "arm"; one of the great images of God found in scripture. **How does this image of the one who has the strong power to hold and grasp you bring you comfort and stability?**

Stephen mentions how he struggled as a child to comprehend God's timelessness. **Instead of being**

intimidated by the timelessness of God, how can we instead rest in it?