



Trusting God in Troubled Times
March 11 & 12, 2023

Jesus was born into a most troubled world.

Matthew 2:13 (NLT)

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

Luke 1:29a (NIV)

Mary was greatly troubled...

Luke 1:29 (NLT)

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

How Do I Trust God in Troubled Times?

1

Think about God's Word

Luke 1:29b (NLT)

Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

Psalms 77:12-13 (NCV)

I think about all the things you did and consider your deeds. God, your ways are holy. No god is as great as our God.

Philippians 4:8 (TPT)

Keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, praising him always.

2

Remember God's promises

Luke 1:31-33 (NCV)

"Listen! You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Psalm 119:49-50 (NCV)

Remember your promise to me, your servant; it gives me hope. When I suffer, this comforts me: Your promise gives me life.

2 Peter 1:4 (TPT)

As a result of this, he has given you magnificent promises that are beyond all price, so that through the power of these tremendous promises we can experience partnership with the divine nature, by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world.

3

Unbridle God's power

Luke 1:34-35 (TPT)

Mary said, "But how could this happen? I am still a virgin!" Gabriel answered, "The Spirit of Holiness will fall upon you and almighty God will spread his shadow of power over you in a cloud of glory! This is why the child born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

Romans 8:9a, 10-11 (TPT)

But when the Spirit of Christ empowers your life, you are not dominated by the flesh but by the Spirit...Now Christ lives his life in you! And even though your body may be dead because of the effects of sin, his life-giving Spirit imparts life to you because you are fully accepted by God. Yes, God raised Jesus to life! And since God's Spirit of Resurrection lives in you, he will also raise your dying body to life by the same Spirit that breathes life into you!

Ephesians 5:17 (MSG)

Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (LB)

Now the most important thing about a servant is that he does just what his master tells him to.

4

Surrender to God's purposes

Luke 1:38 (TPT)

Then Mary responded, saying, "Yes! I will be a mother for the Lord! As his servant, I accept whatever he has for me. May everything you have told me come to pass." And the angel left her.

Proverbs 19:21 (TPT)

A person may have many ideas concerning God's plan for his life, but only the designs of God's purpose will succeed in the end.

Ephesians 1:11 (TPT)

Through our union with Christ we too have been claimed by God as his own inheritance. Before we were even born, he gave us our destiny; that we would fulfill the plan of God who always accomplishes every purpose and plan in his heart.

5

Treasure God's testing and trials

Luke 2:19 (TPT)

But Mary treasured all these things in her heart and often pondered what they meant.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (LB)

So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here. These trials are only to test your faith, to see whether or not it is strong and pure. It is being tested as fire tests gold and purifies it—and your faith is far more precious to God than mere gold; so if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of his return.

James 1:3-4 (LB)

...for when the way is rough, your patience has a chance to grow. So let it grow, and don't try to squirm out of your problems. For when your patience is finally in full bloom, then you will be ready for anything, strong in character, full and complete.

Hebrews 2:18 (TPT)

He suffered and endured every test and temptation, so that he can help us every time we pass through the ordeals of life.

How Do I Trust God in Troubled Times?

Think about God's Word

Remember God's promises

Unbridle God's power

Surrender to God's purposes

Treasure God's testing and trials



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