

ADVERSITY

Consider...

- > Is there a connection between adversity and affliction, adversity and chastisement?
- > Is anyone exempt from adversity? Are some more prone than others? Is age a factor?
- > Is adversity out of your control or within your control? Is it a part of God's sovereignty?



"Why does this always happen to me?"

"If Thou Faint in the Day of Adversity, Thy Strength is Small." - Prov. 24:10

1. Compare and contrast the Hebrew and Greek definitions below. Give some examples of adversity, big and small. How does the definition of "narrow" or "tightness" accurately describe it?
2. What does the Bible teach about adversity?
 - A. The contrasting response - Psalm 31:7-9; Psalm 10:4-7
 - B. The purpose - Isaiah 30:20-21; Psalm 94:12-14
 - C. The test - Prov. 24:10; Ecclesiastes 7:14
3. Since adversity is so closely connected with affliction and tribulation, let us consider the parable of the sower. (Matt. 13:18-23; Mark 4:14-20) Compare the response of those soils (souls) on the wayside, the stony ground, the thorns and the good ground.

"In the Day of Prosperity Be Joyful, But In the Day of Adversity Consider: God Hath Set the One Over Against the Other..."

- A. In Mark 4:16-17 we read that the response of the stony ground to affliction is, "immediately they are offended." What is considered offensive? Jn. 6:60-61; Ro. 9:33; Heb. 4:12
- B. What are questions that arise out of the "Day of Adversity" concerning national adversity? Personal adversity? What is the hope for a child of God? Romans 5:1-5
4. What is the difference between adversity and affliction?
 - A. Is it possible to bring adversity and/or affliction upon ourselves? If so, how?
 - 1) Hebrews 11:24-26
 - 2) I Cor. 11:32; Hebrews 12:5-8
 - B. In Ecclesiastes 7:14 we read, that God has set both the day of prosperity and the day of adversity. No one seems to complain about the day of prosperity, but when the day of adversity is set by God it is often difficult to handle. What comfort does the Bible provide concerning this time? I Thessalonians 3:3
 - C. List different responses that people have given to others who are experiencing adversity.
 - Of what must a child of God be reminded concerning others? II Cor. 1:3-7; 4:16-18
5. CONCLUSION: The Bible teaches that salvation is not made known to us through a verbal commitment but rather "with fear and trembling" (Phil 2:12) in the daily evaluation of the spiritual fruits our life is producing or not. How does adversity play a part in "working out our salvation"? What should be our prayer in the day of adversity?



STRONG'S HEBREW AND GREEK DEFINITIONS

1. **ADVERSITY (H6862)**
"Tsar" - *narrow; a tight place*; i.e. fig. trouble; an opponent, afflicted, anguish, distress, enemy
2. **ADVERSITY (H6869)**
"Tsarah" - *tightness*; i.e. fig. trouble; rival - adversary, affliction; anguish, distress, tribulation
3. **ADVERSITY (7451)**
"Rah" - *bad or evil*; calamity, exceeding grief, trouble, distress
4. **ADVERSITY (G2558)**
"Kakoucheo" - to maltreat; which suffer affliction
5. **AFFLICTION (G2347)**
"Thilpsis" - *pressure*; afflicted, burdened, anguish, tribulation, trouble
6. **SUFFERING (G3804)**
"Pathema" - *Something undergone, hardship or pain*, subj. an emotion or influence; affection, affliction
7. **TRIBULATION (G2347)**
(same number/definition as Affliction)