

## Thanksgiving In the East Wind

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Isaiah 27:8

Our text refers to *“the day of the east wind.”* *“The east wind”* was a very strong and scorching wind (Ezek. 17:10). The Bible always associates the east wind with hardship... tragedy... and adversity. The east wind is never referred to in a positive way.

- An east wind destroyed the ears of corn in Egypt (Gen. 41:6).
- An east wind brought the plague of locusts upon Egypt (Ex. 10:13-14).
- An east wind blew down the house of Job’s children, killing them (1:19 cf. Hos. 13:15).
- God caused an east wind to wither Israel’s crops (Ezek. 17:10).
- God destroyed the ships of Tarshish with an east wind (Ps. 48:7; Ezek. 27:25-26).
- Jeremiah 18:17 says God will scatter His people with an east wind.
- In Jonah 4:8 says, *“God prepared a vehement EAST WIND”* that caused Jonah to wish that he would die.

**FIVE truths that should lead us to be thankful:**

### **I. God is in CONTROL of the winds that blow into our lives.**

- A. God *“stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind.”* God *permits* trouble to come into our life (Job). Then He promises to *restrain* the winds so they do not destroy, but only bring a needed correction in our lives.
- B. The Lord Jesus sent His disciples across the Sea of Galilee, knowing a storm would arise. He was in control of the winds all the time!

➡ Be THANKFUL God controls the winds. The wind may blow some waves into your boat, but He won’t let you sink beneath the waters.

### **II. God sends only ONE WIND at a time.**

- *“The rough wind”* and the *“east wind”* don’t blow at the same time.

- “A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench” (Isa. 42:3).

➔ We can be THANKFUL that when we are chastened of the Lord, He always tempers His chastening with mercy.

### III. Trials are **TIMED** according to the will of God.

- A. When I was a boy there were times when I felt I was punished unfairly. As I look back now, I’m amazed I thought they were such a big deal, when in fact, they so minor.
- B. The same is true when we face adversity in our Christian walk. At the time, we grieve and cannot see a reason for it. Then years later we realize it was not as difficult as we thought it was. We can THANK God that He knows best.

- It would be good to ask yourself during a trial or chastening, “What will I think of this when I get to heaven?”

➔ THANK GOD the winds of adversity only come for a time, then they are gone. “*It came to pass...*” NOT it came to stay!

### IV. Chastening is not only timed, it is also **MEASURED** (vs. 8-9).

- He sent Israel into captivity instead of wiping her out altogether as He did other nations (Jer. 30:11).

➔ Thank God He MEASURES His chastening and will never chasten you more severely than necessary.

### V. Trials are sent to **STRENGTHEN** us.

- God usually sends “*his rough wind*” first so that your life can be strengthen against “*the day of the east wind.*” Day by day... hour by hour... burden by burden your life is made stronger.

➔ THANK God He strengthens us and prepares us so we can bear the stronger winds ahead. If you cannot THANK GOD during “*rough wind*” you will never bear up in “*the day of the east wind.*”

**SUMMATION:** Ephesians 5:20; Job 1:21; Acts 5:41