

The Lord Is Good

“The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.” (NAHUM 1:7)

I. The Lord Is Good

A. Nahum was comforting the nation in the face of an impending assault by Sennacherib of Assyria. “*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble*; and he knoweth them that trust in him.” (NAHUM 1:7)

B. God’s goodness to His own often comes at the expense of their tormenters; it is dangerous to contend with God. “But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and *darkness shall pursue his enemies*.” (NAHUM 1:8)

C. The contrast of goodness and severity highlights each through the other. “*Behold* therefore the *goodness and severity* of God: *on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness*, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” (ROMANS 11:22)

D. The expression of appreciation for God’s constant and unending mercy to His people is a normal part of religious worship. “O give *thanks unto the LORD*; for *he is* good: for *his mercy endureth for ever*.” (PSALM 136:1)

E. MERCY and TRUTH are perpetual features of genuine encounters with God; neither attribute endures in the dream world of infidels and pagans. “For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and *his truth endureth to all generations*.” (PSALM 100:5)

II. God Protects His People

A. Life is fragile and people have just cause to be fearful. “Thou carriest them away as with a flood; *they are as a sleep*: in the morning *they are* like grass *which* groweth up. *In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down, and withereth*.” (PSALM 90:5-6)

B. Stability, strength, and security are possible, but only in the Lord. “*He only is my rock* and my salvation: *he is my defence; I shall not be moved*. In God *is* my *salvation* and my *glory*: the rock of my *strength*, and my *refuge*, *is* in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, *pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge* for us. SELAH.” (PSALM 62:6-8)

C. God is particularly attentive to those who know they need Him. “For thou hast been a strength to the *poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm*, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* as a storm *against* the wall.” (ISAIAH 25:4)

D. God has made an open-ended promise to His hearers. “And *call* upon me *in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee*, and thou shalt glorify me.” (PSALM 50:15)

III. God Knows Who Trusts Him

A. Church history repeatedly demonstrates the willingness of God to keep His promises. “*This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.*” (PSALM 34:6)

B. Meditate on grace across the ages. “*I did know thee in the wilderness*, in the land of great drought.” (HOSEA 13:5)

C. Providence is intentional and grace is particular in all its features, both positive and negative. “*You only have I known of all the families of the earth*: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.” (AMOS 3:2)

D. Jesus’ compassion was directed specifically to those given Him by the Father. “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*: And I give unto them eternal life; and *they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand*. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and *no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.*” (JOHN 10:27-29)

E. Heavenly compassion does not extend indiscriminately to those who reject God. “For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but *the way of the ungodly shall perish.*” (PSALM 1:6)

F. Take God at His word in all things. “Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. Nevertheless *the foundation of God standeth sure*, having this seal, *The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*” (2 TIMOTHY 2:18-19)