

# The LORD Is Good

Nahum 1:7

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**FOCAL Read Together** Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Several years ago the noted Bible Scholar **J.B. Phillips** wrote a book called “**Your God Is Too Small**”, in which he truthfully stated:

**“Many men and women today are living, often with inner dissatisfaction, without any faith in God at all. This is not because they are particularly wicked or selfish or, as the old-fashioned would say, "godless," but because they have not found with their adult minds a God big enough to "account for" life, big enough to "fit in with" the new scientific age, big enough to command their highest admiration and respect, and consequently their willing co-operation.”**

There are many who profess to be “Christian”, and yet they have a *small view* of God. God is great and God is good – when things are going good. But when tragedy strikes many are conditioned to believe that this thing that occurred was beyond God's control. God was *surprised* by the unexpected – for “**God is good**” we say, and “**if God is good then that which is tragic or uncomfortable would *never* happen to His people if God, Who is good, were able to fix it.**” Some people make excuses for God in the tragedy. After all, that Kindly Old Man just couldn't help it. It's all He can do to keep the universe in place.

Dear friends, God is *not* a Kindly Old Man watching helplessly over that which He has created. God is not a

*disinterested Spectator of life* Who, like a Cosmic Policeman, only steps in when people break the Law. God is not constantly astounded and puzzled by the things that we do. The Bible says of our God that He:

**Isaiah 46:10** **Declar{es} the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:**

God is not limited, nor is He weak in any way, shape, or form. **God will do all His pleasure.** Nothing happens without His review. Nothing occurs without His oversight. God told His servant Moses *long before Pharaoh ever repented:*

**Exodus 6:1-2 ... Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land. {2} ... I am the LORD:**

Listen to the *context* of Nahum, the description that God gives of Himself through the Prophet. He states:

**Nahum 1:2-6** **God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. {3} The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. {4} He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan**

**languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. {5} The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. {6} Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.**

Does this sound like the *grandfather God* that so many believe in? I think not. God is Almighty – ALL MIGHTY. He is **slow to anger** – He never strikes without first threatening. And yet, **He will take vengeance on the adversaries, and will not at all acquit the wicked.** God's rod of mercy is extended long before His rod of justice falls. **Sodom will not drown “in the fire of God's fury” until righteous Lot** spends time in the city preaching, and then God will not leave Lot with the unrighteous when He destroys Sodom for her sins. **God will not send a flood of destruction on the earth until Noah preaches 120 years** – and God will not leave His people to perish among that fallen world, but **delivers them by Ark.** God is slow to anger, and slow to destroy. Though **Jonah** cared little for the people of **Nineveh** – for his pitiful sermons showed his heart – **God forced Jonah to carry a message of salvation to those people.** It is interesting that the early Christian symbol – the *sign of the fish* – was also the means by which God delivered mercy to the Ninevites! Our God is immense, and immensely filled with mercy. Consider even the sinner **Adam** who, eating of the forbidden, hid himself from God. The Bible tells us that the Lord came into Eden:

Genesis 3:8 .... **walking in the garden** in the cool of the day ...

Our Lord never *runs* to judge, but *walks* – He is in no haste to condemn nor to damn. **Egypt was warned ten times to release God's Israel before the Lord destroyed her earthly power in the Red Sea. The first generation of Israel was warned ten times (Numbers 14:22) before God destroyed them by exiling them to the desert on the cursed side of the Jordan.**

Our God is immense, and immense in His love. Our God is huge, and not limited in power. Our God is good, even unto those who are not good to Him. Our God is a stronghold in the day of trouble. Our God knows those who trust in Him.

### **1. The LORD Is Good**

**FOCAL** Nahum 1:7 **The LORD is good**, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

The prophet begins by stating **The LORD<sup>1</sup> is good**. Think about that statement for a moment. It begins with the words **The LORD**. Anytime you see the word **LORD** in all uppercase lettering in the King James Version of the Holy Scripture this is the *most Holy Name of God*, the *eternal Name of God* – it is His Name **YAHWEH** or as some would say **YEHOVAH**. We see this Holy Name 6519 times in the Scripture. It is the

Name that God gave to Himself before the Prophet Moses. **“I Am that I Am” (Exodus 3:14)**. God says that He alone is *self-existent*. **“I Am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last” (Revelation 22:13)**. **“Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me” (Isaiah 43:10)**. God says **“I Am the First and the Last, and beside Me there there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6)**. We as humans foolishly ask “Where did God come from?” because our finite minds cannot conceive of a Being Who has always been. God is that Being! **And this infinite Being is always good**. Everything He does is good.

Some people ask “If God is Almighty, and if God is so good and loving, then *why* does He allow evil?” **Pastor Greg Laurie** states:

**“This question is based on a false premise. ... The first question I would ask in response would be “So when did you become the moral center of the universe?” Listen, God is not good because I think He is good, or because I personally agree with what He says and does. God is good because He says He is! Jesus said, “No one is good, except God alone” (Luke 18:19). God is good if I believe it or not. .... “Let God be true, and every man a liar” (Romans 3:4)”.**<sup>2</sup>

God is good, and He is always good, for God is Eternal YAHWEH. Why does God allow evil? Dear friends, evil is not God's fault – it is ours. We made the decision to be

<sup>1</sup> H3068, יהוה, *y<sup>h</sup>hováh, yeh-ho-vaw'*, From H1961; (the) *self Existent* or eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God: - Jehovah, the Lord. Compare H3050, H3069.

<sup>2</sup> *Ten Things You Should Know About God and Life*, page 35, Greg Laurie, *Billy Graham Library Selection*

evil.

When you see an act of evil the leash on that hound always leads back to a human hand!

We make bad decisions – we do foolish things – **God Who is good did not make us to be puppets or marionettes – He made us in His image and after His likeness for that which is higher than what we often pursue.** God didn't even make Hell for us humans, though some humans are bound and determined to go there. God gave us free wills so we can, if we so desire, do foolish and evil things. That's not God's fault, that's man's fault.

There are many things that happen to us in this life that we do not understand. A man is born blind, and Christ's disciples say “**Master, who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind**”. Their inference was “**Why has God allowed this evil to come on this man?**” Jesus replies:

**John 9:3 “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”**

Being born blind was not an evil that God allowed. God made us all, and made this man blind so that Christ might be glorified. That which God says is evil is evil – He is the Moral Center of the universe. **Satan comes to God one day, saying “The reason these Christians are following You is because you give them so many**

**benefits. I'll bet if You removed those benefits those Christians would turn away from You!”** Satan's inference was that God is – to us who love Him – no more than a Cosmic Santa Claus. The Lord replied “**Have you considered – you old slew footed thing – my servant Job!**” (**Job 2:3**). Satan went to Job's house and destroyed his family and his possessions, leaving only a nagging witch of a woman to be his wife. The shrew says to him, “**Do you keep your integrity? Curse God and die!**” Job, looking at his wife, says

**Job 2:10 ... Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.**

The person who denies the goodness of the Lord his God is like the foolish fishwife of Job. **Shall we receive good at the hand of God and not receive the bad?** When trials come let your praises ring out to God. Praise Him in the storm, and confound the devil and all the demons of hell.

The Lord is good, and He loves those Who are His. The Psalmist said:

**Psalms 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.**

God is so good that He wants none to go to damnation, to eternal hellfire. **He will teach sinners in the Way.**

**Proverbs 14:12** **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**

God will not allow unsaved and unrepentant man to merrily wind his way to hell without striving to **lead them in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake** (Psalm 23:3). Which brings us to our next point.

## **2. Trials Come *Because* God Is Good**

**FOCAL** Nahum 1:7 The **LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble**; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

God uses trials and tribulations to draw us to Him. The unbeliever, comfortably settled into his sin and his seeking for pleasure, has no time for God.

**ILLUSTRATE** I was laying on the bed the other day eating Vanilla Wafers<sup>®</sup>, when my little dog Scooter came up and started begging for cookies. I did what all dog owners do – I gave him a cookie. He took it in his mouth, went off, and came a minute later licking his lips. I, figuring that he ate the cookie, gave him another. We went through this several times before I refused to give him any more cookies. It was only later that I got up and, putting on my slippers, I found them to be full of cookies. Scooter had taken that which I gave him as a blessing and, ruining it, turned it into a curse.

As humans we do the same thing. God gives us blessing after blessing, and we end up worshiping the blessing while ignoring the Lord. Jesus told a parable of a certain

rich man, who was given much. We read:

**Luke 12:16-21** ... The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: {17} And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? {18} And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. {19} And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. {20} But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? {21} So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Many of you, like this rich man, worship not the true God **but your own souls**. Like the rich man God has blessed you. God has given you nice houses, beautiful lands, wonderful families. In your unbelief you gave back to God pennies for His dollars, minutes for the hours He bestowed upon you.

**Like the children of Israel you took the jewelry God blessed you with, melted it down, and made a golden calf to worship while ignoring Him Who loves you so.**

Were it not for the trials none of us would ever look toward God. Trials come upon us because God is good. **God gives us trials so that we will seek Him in the day of trouble. God gives us trials so that we – perhaps –**

will turn to Him and be saved! The trials come to lead us to a better place. Trials come to lead us to God. **Are you blinded with sin and suffering?** Then, like the blind men, follow God crying “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us”.

**FOCAL** Nahum 1:7 The **LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;** ..

The **LORD is good, A stronghold.** There are many different strongholds that we may run to when our lives are lived in the valley. Some people run to their money. Others run to doctors, lawyers, or other professional people. Yet **only God is a GOOD STRONGHOLD.** He is eternally good, and eternally reliable. Our text also notes **the LORD is good, a stronghold in the DAY of trouble.**

If you are in God trouble will have but a day – but the LORD God is forever. When trials comes will I dwell on the DAY or on the ETERNAL GOD Who loves me so?

The Psalmist said:

**Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.**

And again,

**Psalms 31:1-3 ... In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. {2} Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for a house of defense to save me. {3} For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.**

And yet again,

**Psalms 91:1-2 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. {2} I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.**

Look back over your lives. Has God delivered you from Egypt in the past? Have you seen His miraculous hand at work? **Then trust Him in the day of trouble.** David trusted God though confronted with Goliath, and God won the day for him. When confronted with trials, hide your life in His. *Be persistent.* The Bible tells us that our Lord Jesus was one day confronted by **a woman of Canaan.** We read:

**Matthew 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.**

What drove this woman to Jesus but the blessing of a trial. The *Canaanites* were an ancient and pagan people who worshiped many different gods and goddesses. The Canaanites were so blasphemous that there was a time

when God demanded that they be driven out of the land or killed outright. Here is a Canaanite, a woman who once had been proudly pagan, proudly without God. She **came out of the same coasts** seeking Christ. Look what the hand of trial has done to her. Prior to this moment she had no need for the Savior, but now, in suffering, she cries out **for mercy. Have mercy on me, O Lord, Thou Son of David.** Thoughts of deservedness are gone. Pride, self will, arrogance – these things are passed. Now her life is reduced to the **agony of a daughter vexed with a devil**, and the Solution that only Christ can offer. She cries out. But look!

**Matthew 15:23** **But he answered her not a word.** ...

**Oh, if God were good He would answer my prayer forthwith. If God were good He would run to where I am, and alleviate my pain.** These are things that we think. Yet God is not concerned with a morsel of your life. We want a quick fix, then want to be on our merry way.

We want a *ripcord God* Who bails us out in times of trial, and yet is neatly packaged away – like a parachute – until we need Him. But God loves us more than that. He wants us *forever* – so He often waits in the trial until our heart is surrendered to salvation.

The King James reads as if this woman made a single please – at least, until you read the rest of the verse.

**Matthew 15:23** **But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth<sup>3</sup> after us.**

**She croaks, she has screamed until her voice screeches – send her away!** She has wept, she has cried, she has surrendered to God. Only when the disciples come to the Lord does He speak to the woman. What does God say? Does He say “Be of good cheer?” Does He speak encouraging words? No, but Jesus uses the trial of this woman **to teach both the disciples as well as the others who are listening.**

**Faith for my deliverance is not faith in God. Faith means, whether I am visibly delivered or not, I will stick to my belief that God is love. There are some things only learned in a fiery furnace.**  
Oswald Chambers<sup>4</sup>

Jesus replied:

**Matthew 15:24** **But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

This is true. **Jesus came first unto Israel – then unto the rest of us.** He would soon be **the Light which was to lighten the Gentiles (Luke 2:32)**, and He knew this. He spoke to strengthen her faith. We see ...

<sup>3</sup> Present Active Indicative of G2896, κρᾶζω, krazō, krad'-zo, A primary verb; properly to “croak” (as a raven) or *scream*, that is, (generally) to *call* aloud (*shriek, exclaim, intreat*): - cry (out).

<sup>4</sup> In *Run Today's Race*

**Matthew 15:25** Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me.

She worshiped Him, calling Him Lord. This is greater than any gift that God can give. The harden heart is broken and pliable in the hands of the Savior. Regardless as to trial or tribulation she will worship the One True God! Look at the rest of the encounter:

**Matthew 15:26-28** But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. {27} And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. {28} Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The greatest thing in life is not to be healed, nor is it to be without trial. The greatest thing in life is to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior!

**1 Peter 1:7-9** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: {8} Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: {9} Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

God's target in the trial is to bring you to Him.

### 3. God Knows Them That Trust In Him

**FOCAL** Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

God knoweth them that trust in Him. He knows us – if we have loved Him. He knows us, and is intensely interested in our good. But only if we TRUST in Him.

The Jews came to Jesus one day and asked Him, “What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?” (John 6:28). Jesus replied:

**John 6:29** .... This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

What is the **work of God**? To build a cathedral? To give all your goods to the poor? No, to believe on Jesus. The Bible tells us that **without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6)**. It pleases God when you believe on Jesus Christ. It pleases God when the trials of life drive you into His nail scarred arms. It pleases God when you **do all things through Christ Jesus Who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13)**. It pleases God, Who is Eternally good, that we rest in His arms. If you are born again by faith in Jesus Christ then you know:

**1 Corinthians 8:5-6** For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there

be gods many, and lords many,) {6} But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

As C.H. Spurgeon said:

“if you want to please God, trust him, trust him implicitly. Trust him now with your sin, with your sorrow, with everything. The more you trust him, the more pleasing you are to God. See what an opportunity you have of pleasing him in times of great trial and trouble. If a person has a burden to carry which he is able to bear, self-reliance will serve his turn; but when he has a load upon him that he cannot carry, and he says, “O God, if thou wilt strengthen me, I will carry it,” — then it is that he is pleasing to God. If you are only reaching what you can reach, there is nothing notable in that; the thing is to be doing what you cannot do, by believing in God to give you more strength than by nature you possess. To trust God while you are alive, is good; but to say, with Job. “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him,” that is the very cream of faith. “He knoweth” — with approving knowledge — “all them that trust in him.”<sup>5</sup>

As Adrian Rogers once said:

“If I put things between me and Christ, it is

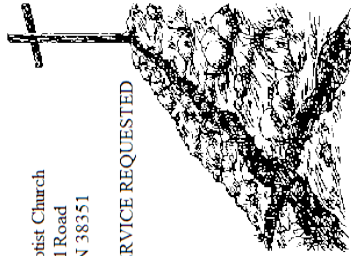
idolatry. If I put Christ between me and things, it is victory!”

May God touch your hearts to turn unto Him this very day!

5 THE STRONGHOLD, NO. 2555, INTENDED FOR READING ON LORD’S-DAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1898, DELIVERED BY C. H. SPURGEON.

Rock Hill Baptist Church  
605 Rock Hill Road  
Lexington, TN 38351

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**1. The LORD Is Good**

Nahum 1:7; Exodus 3:14; Revelation 22:13; Isaiah 43:10; Isaiah 44:6; John 9:3; Job 2:3; Job 2:10; Psalms 25:8; Proverbs 14:12; Psalm 23:3

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**2. Trials Come Because God Is Good**

Nahum 1:7; Luke 12:16-21; Psalms 18:2; Psalms 31:1-3; Psalms 91:1-2; Matthew 15:22; Matthew

15:23; Matthew 15:23; Matthew 15:24; Matthew 15:25; Matthew 15:26-28; 1 Peter 1:7-9

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**3. God Knows Them That Trust In Him**

Nahum 1:7; John 6:28; John 6:29; Hebrews 11:6; Philippians 4:13; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

Adrian Rogers: “If I put things between me and Christ, it is idolatry. If I put Christ between me and things, it is victory!”

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<sup>6</sup> *Ten Things You Should Know About God and Life*, page 35, Greg Laurie, Billy Graham Library Selection