

“The LORD is good”

Nahum 1:7

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Introduction: Let’s begin tonight with a children’s song: “The Lord is good, tell it wherever you go, the Lord is good, tell it that others many know; tell of His blessings & tell of His love, tell how He’s coming from heaven above: the Lord is good, tell it wherever you go.” Do you believe that? Are you sharing that? I draw your attention to just one verse tonight, 1:7, “*The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; & He knoweth them that trust in Him.*” This morning we began our study of the Book of Nahum by considering the exclamation of Nineveh’s doom (1:1-14). We will later look at the explanation of Nineveh’s doom (1:15-2:13) & the expectation of Nineveh’s doom (3:1-19). The book has also been outlined as: Nineveh’s doom declared (chapter 1); Nineveh’s doom described (chapter 2); & Nineveh’s doom deserved (chapter 3). Wiersbe suggests: “God is Jealous: Nineveh will fall (1:1-15); God is Judge: How Nineveh will fall (2:1-13); & God is Just: Why Nineveh will fall (3:1-19).” Our emphasis this morning was upon the majestic person of God & the manifested power of God; that is, God’s attributes declared & His attitude described. Tonight note with me 3 simple thoughts from chapter 1 verse 7: God is good; God is great; & God is gracious.

I. “*The LORD is good*” >

A. The goodness of God defined:

1. “The goodness of God means that God is the final standard of good, & that all that God is & does is worthy of approval” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*).
2. “There is no higher standard of goodness than God’s own character & his approval of whatever is consistent with that character” (Grudem).
3. “When we evaluate things in the way God created us to evaluate them, we will also approve what God approves & delight in things in which He delights” (Grudem).

Application: Contrast this with Isaiah 5:20, “*Woe unto them that call evil good, & good evil; that put darkness for light, & light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, & sweet for bitter!*”

Illustrate: The debate over abortion, especially since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

B. The goodness of God demonstrated:

1. In His creation – see Genesis 1:31, “*And God saw every thing that He had made, & , behold, it was very good*” & compare Psalm 104.
2. In His actions – see Psalm 119:68, “*Thou art good, & doest good; teach me Thy statutes*” & compare Psalms 106 & 107 (note the refrain in Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, & 31, “*Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, & for His wonderful works to the children of men!*”).

C. The goodness of God described:

1. He is the source of all good – see James 1:17, “*Every good gift & every perfect gift is from above, & cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*”
2. He is the supplier of all good – see Psalm 84:11, “*For the LORD God is a sun & shield: the LORD will give grace & glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly*” & compare Romans 8:28, 32; & Hebrews 12:10.

II. The Lord is great > “...*a strong hold in the day of trouble...*”

A. What? He is “*a strong hold...*”

1. A fortified place; a fortress; a place of safety.
2. “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (Luther) – see Psalm 46:1, “*God is our refuge & strength, a very present help in trouble.*”
3. And compare Psalm 18:1, “*The LORD is my rock, & my fortress, & my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, & the horn of my salvation, & my high tower.*”
Derek Kidner called this verse “a rush of metaphors” in which “Israel’s greatest king poured out his thanksgiving to God for his unfailing protection.”

B. When? He is “*a strong hold in the day of trouble...*”

1. Our time of “*trouble*” – temptations (I Corinthians 10:13; James 1:3); tribulations (II Corinthians 1:4); persecutions (Matthew 5:10-12).
2. Our trust in time of “*trouble*” – see again Psalm 46 & consider Luther’s testimony.

III. The Lord is gracious > “...*He knoweth them that trust in Him.*”

A. He knows (knew) in eternity past:

1. See Amos 3:2, “*You only have I known of all the families of the earth...*” “He was saying that out of all nations on earth He had chosen Israel to be His people in a unique way” (Blanchard).
2. Compare I Peter 1:2, “*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father...*” & see I Peter 2:9.

B. He knows in earthly present:

1. The promise of His presence – Matthew 28:18-20.
2. The promise of His protection – Hebrews 13:5-6.

C. He knows in eternal future:

1. O.T. promise – Psalm 1:6.
2. N.T. promise – John 5:24.

Conclusion: What a stunning verse (Nahum 1:7) following Nahum’s opening declaration of God’s judgment upon Nineveh. This is God’s reminder to Judah that their feared enemy, Assyria, was to be judged & they would be secure & free to worship the Lord. Indeed, the goodness of God is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. We have considered the goodness of God defined, demonstrated, & described. As has been said, He works all things for His glory & for our good. He is not only a good God, but also a great God as well as a gracious God. Does He know you to be one that is trusting in Him? If not, why not submit to Him tonight. If He is your God, are you able to praise Him tonight for His goodness, His greatness, & His grace?