

A BELIEVER'S STRONGHOLD

Nahum 1:7

Intro: This is one of the attributes of God which seems to have come into prominence in the days of David and Solomon -- although it was certainly known before.

One of the most repeated statements in the Bible is that which is found at the beginning of Psa. 118:1 and again in Psa. 136:1, "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever." Psa. 136 also closes with this in v. 26.

We have it also when Solomon dedicated the Temple. See 2 Chron. 5:13 for the time when they brought in the ark. See 2 Chron. 7:3 for the words of the people when Solomon had finished praying.

There are many other times when this is mentioned throughout the Old Testament.

We have our Lord declaring this about God alone in Matt. 19:16, 17 -- "There is none good but one, that is, God."

But when Nahum was called to preach judgment to the city of Nineveh, this was a great part of the hope that he held out to that city:

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth those who trust in him."

Think about it! "The Lord is good."

I. ITS MANY MEANINGS.

This is a word which means:

- 1) That He is good instead of being evil.
- 2) That He is right instead of being wrong.
- 3) That He brings happiness instead of sorrow.
- 4) That He is dependable instead of failing.
- 5) That He is lovely instead of being one to despise.
- 6) That He is adequate instead of being insufficient.
- 7) That He is honest instead of being deceptive.
- 8) That He is wise instead of being foolish.
- 9) That He is needed instead of being unnecessary.
- 10) That He is loving instead of being one who despises.

"The Lord is good." What a wealth of truth there is in this statement! Who can ever comprehend it all?

II. THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS TRUE.

You will note that there are no limitations upon the state-

ment.

A. This is a revelation.

B. Linked with Jehovah -- the permanence of God's character.

This is what He always has been. This is what He is right now. And this is what He always will be.

C. He is "good" regardless of what men might be.

Man's unfaithfulness does not change the character of God.

D. It is God's purpose to display His goodness as He brings all things to their culmination.

III. THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE: He is "a stronghold in the day of trouble."

A. He is the believer's security, defense, protection, strength.

The picture is one of danger, of attack, from an enemy.

B. "The day" suggests that there will be times of special danger for the child of God.

C. "The day" also suggests that there will be limitations to the trouble.

D. A word of peace: "And he knoweth them that trust in Him."

He knows where we are and who we are and what we are facing.

And He never is late, although He may delay. And He never is less than His people need.

IV. THREE ILLUSTRATIONS.

A. Joseph.

Trace the discouraging and apparently hopeless circumstances of Joseph's life -- from home to Egypt and then to prison -- always with people involved.

But then see the outcome: Gen. 50:19, 20.

B. Joshua. Cf. his report in Josh. 21:45.

- C. Paul. After considering all of the details of his life, and all of his suffering, see what he says in Rom. 8:28.

Concl: Where does this truth find you tonight? Are you in a day of trouble? Are you inclined to doubt the Lord -- to be resentful toward Him?

Then take this truth to heart. It is still true. This is what the Lord is right now -- to you. He wants you to "trust in Him" so that the truth of this verse can delight your soul now even before you see the outworking of the circumstances.

"How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend;
His love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end.

"'Tis Jesus the first and the last,
Whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
We'll trust Him for all that's to come."