

The Good God of Comfort

Reading: Nahum 1.1-13

Key Verse: *"The Lord is good; He protects His people in times of trouble; He knows those who turn to Him."* Nahum 1.7.

This is a marvellous verse for all who are toiling under the turmoil of trouble, of whatever kind. It is a verse that all can take in faith and apply to their immediate need. It is applicable first to those who are convicted of their sin and wish relief from their guilt and punishment. It is found in just such a context. Nahum's message was delivered to Assyria's ungodly capital, Nineveh, about 650BC. He like Jonah, about 120 years before, predicted the overthrow of the empire which occurred in 606BC. Unlike the redeeming response to Jonah's preaching the message went unheeded. This verse is a message of hope and salvation to all those who turn to the Lord. Are you such an one? Know this, He takes care of those who turn to Him. Do it today!

The name 'Nahum' means 'compassion'. Here he reminds us of the compassion of God for all those who have turned to Him. Are you in some trouble? Are you standing at wits-end corner, wondering which way to go, where to turn? Do you long for God to be at work in your circumstances? Then read on:

The Lord is Good

Nahum tells of the greatness of God of God in chapter one. The men of Nineveh well understood the concept of greatness, for Nineveh it self was a great city in its day. It was 100km in circumference. It boasted of a great wall 30 metres high which had 1,200 towers. It was wide enough for three chariots to be driven at speed along it's length. The city was almost impregnable

and it's citizens felt safe. No matter how great Nineveh was considered to be, the Lord was greater. Know this beyond a doubt, your God is greater than any work of men. But more than that the Lord is good. Greatness is a political quality speaking of power but goodness is a moral quality pointing to grace. Goodness is warm, encouraging, giving. The name 'God' is derived from 'good' and this quality best

describes in a word the nature of God in His dealing with those who have turned to Him.

This verse comes to us amidst a prophecy of hard tidings. How often do we praise the Goodness of God when things go wel, but do we do it when things go wrong? Look up Romans 8.28 & Job 2.10.

He Protects His People in Times of Trouble

The old version renders this phrase '*a stronghold in the day of trouble*'. A stronghold is a place of safety from the onslaught of an enemy, a place of security against loss. Troubles come to us all. Ecclesiastes 9.11-12 Christians are not offered an immunity from life's troubles, Psalm 77,2&3 etc., but we are promised a refuge, a place to hide in the midst of troubles . This refuge is the Lord Himself. Psalm 61.2 Isaiah 43.2&3 See also Psalm 27.5, 46.1-3, 91.15, 107.6,19&28. How do non-Christians deal with

the things that come to them? How do they get by on their own? Praise God for such wonderful promises as these.

He knows those who turn to Him

In other words He knows about our troubles. He who has not forgotten the sparrows has not forgotten us. Luke 12.6, Psalm 142.2&3,

He not only knows those who are His but knows all about those who are His. 1 Chronicles 28.9, Psalm 139.1-6. He knows about our trouble. Romans 8.28, Psalm 33.13-15. He knows how we feel. Psalm 103.13&14, John 21.17. He knows what will happen. Isaiah 55.11, Isaiah 46.9&10. He knows the answer to our problems. Matthew 10.29. He knows how to comfort us. Psalm 139.15-18

Here is a guarantee of His possession and care of those who trust in and turn to Him, from 2 Timothy 2.19. *'Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows them that are his.'* It indicates that God has a purpose and a plan and that He is working it out in our lives. We may wonder at the way that He is leading us, but how comforting it is to know that He has all things in His control.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, if the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' is included

Visit us at glenparkgospel.org.au