

Title:        **THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

Text:        Nahum 1:7

Subject:    *The Goodness of God*

Date:        Sunday Morning — Direct Stream Only  
                  March 22, 2020

Reading:    Psalm 34:1-22

(Psalm 34:1-22) I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

(2) My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad.

(3) O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

(4) I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

(5) They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

(6) This poor man cried, and the LORD heard *him*, and saved him out of all his troubles.

(7) The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

(8) O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

(9) O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for *there is*

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no want to them that fear him.

(10) The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good *thing*.

(11) Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

(12) What man *is he that* desireth life, *and* loveth *many* days, that he may see good?

(13) Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

(14) Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

(15) The eyes of the LORD *are* upon the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.

(16) The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

(17) *The righteous* cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

(18) The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

(19) Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous:

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but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

(20) He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

(21) Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate. (22) The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

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**INTRODUCTION**

No one wants to hear it and I will be mocked and cussed for saying it, but say it I must. This worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic we are now experiencing is another act of divine judgment upon a reprobate generation. Like the Hurricanes, Tornadoes, Earthquakes, Tsunamis, and wars that have filled our newspapers in recent years, this Coronavirus Pandemic is another act of divine judgment by which the God of Glory warns us of judgment to come.

- We are eternity bound sinners.
- Soon we must meet God in judgment.
- The only hope for your soul is the Lord Jesus Christ. — His Righteousness! — His Blood! — His Grace!

In the midst of this time of divine judgment, I thought it might be good for us to remember and think upon the goodness of God. So, if you will open your Bible to the Book of Nahum, I believe the Lord has given me a message you need to hear. You will find my text in Nahum 1:7. The title of my message is **THE**

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**GOODNESS OF GOD. — THE GOODNESS OF GOD** (Nahum 1:7).

We do not know who Nahum was, what kind of man he was, who his parents were, how long he lived, where he died, who his descendants were, or even if he had any descendants. All we know about this man, Nahum, is that he was a prophet of God who carried in his heart the burden of the Word of the Lord and faithfully proclaimed the message God gave him to his generation. Nahum was one of those men who faithfully served the Lord in obscurity, without fame or recognition in this world. But he was a faithful man who served a faithful God. For him that was enough.

God tells us virtually nothing about Nahum. But Nahum tells us much about God. Let's begin at verse 2. May the Spirit of God who inspired Nahum to write these words, now enable me to preach from them to your hearts for the glory of Christ.

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In these verses Nahum is declaring the attributes of God. He does not declare all the attributes of God's Being. No man could do that! But he does give us six distinct attributes of Deity, six things which are essential to and descriptive of God's holy character. Who is God? What is he like? **Nahum tells us that...**

1. **"God is jealous."** — With God jealousy is not a fault, but an attribute. It is right for God to be jealous because he is perfect. Any assault upon his person, resistance to his will, rebellion against his rule, or objection to his work is evil. It is right for God to be jealous.

- God is jealous for his Son. — Ask those who crucified him!
- God is jealous for his own honor and glory. — Ask Moses!
- God is jealous for his worship and ordinances. — Ask Uzza!
- God is jealous for his people. — Ask Pharaoh!

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God will avenge his own elect. He will avenge the honor of his name. He will avenge himself upon his enemies. (Read v. 2).

“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.”

Today men talk about God’s love as though his love were a fluctuating passion, like ours, and altogether isolated from his other glorious attributes. I am not going to speak about that today; but be sure of this — The fact that “*God is love*” does not in any way diminish the fact that “*God is jealous.*” In fact, it is God’s love that makes him jealous, so jealous that he is “*furious,*” so jealous that “*he reserveth wrath for his enemies.*”

The word “*wrath*” is not in the original text. It was added by our translators. What God reserves for his enemies is inconceivably and inexpressibly horrifying! — “*God is jealous*” (Nahum 1:2).

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2. **“The LORD is slow to anger.”** — In other words, this great and terrible God, whose jealousy makes him furious, is also patient, forgiving, and longsuffering with sinners. God is not in a hurry to punish sinners and execute judgment upon his enemies. Judgment is his strange work. And he always defers it, giving sinners space for repentance. This is mercy! God is willing to be gracious! God now affords his enemies opportunity to repent and commands them to do so (Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9).

(Acts 17:30) And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent

(2 Peter 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.



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3. **“The LORD is great in power.”** — He is the omnipotent, almighty God! He has all power, and can do all that he is pleased to do. Our God is a great God, because he is “*great in power.*” A weak, frustrated, defeated God is as useless as a bucket without a bottom, or a well without water. **What is omnipotence?** It is the ability and power of God to do...

- All his pleasure!

(Isaiah 46:9-13) Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, (10) Declaring 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: (11) Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it. (12) Hearken unto me, ye stouthearted, that *are* far from righteousness: (13) I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my

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salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

- He is able to perform all his Word!
- Accomplish all his purpose!
- Do all his salvation!

A weak god is a frustration to those who worship him, because a weak god is always frustrated. The almighty, omnipotent Jehovah is the comfort and stay of all who trust him!

4. **“The LORD will not at all acquit the wicked.”** — That is to say, God is just. Justice and truth are the habitation of his throne. Though he is longsuffering and patient, he will punish every transgressor. God’s forbearance is not an indication that he lacks either the will or the ability to punish his enemies. He is great in power. And he is just. Therefore, *“the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* God will not clear the guilty. A just God cannot clear the guilty.

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If God is just and must punish sin, how can any sinner ever be saved? Will God lay aside his justice that he might be merciful? No. He cannot. Justice is essential to his character. How, then, can he save us? There is only one way — Substitution (Job 33:24; Proverbs 16:6; Romans 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 3:13-14; Ephesians 1:3-7). — **If God almighty saves a guilty sinner and forgives his sins three things must be done.**

1. The sinner must be punished to the full satisfaction of justice.
  2. His sins and his guilt must be totally removed.
  3. He must become perfectly righteous.
- And these three things can be satisfied only by the substitutionary work of Christ.

(Job 33:24) Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

(Romans 3:24-26) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: (25) Whom God hath set forth *to be* a

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propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; (26) To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

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(Galatians 3:13-14) Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: (14) That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

(Ephesians 1:3-7) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

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5. **“The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm.”** — What do those words mean? They mean that the Lord our God, who is jealous, longsuffering, omnipotent, and just, is also totally sovereign! He rules all things. *“And the clouds are the dust of his feet!”* (Read Psalms 115:3; 135:6).

(Psalm 115:3) But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

(Psalm 135:6) Whatsoever the LORD pleased, *that* did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.

**“The LORD hath his way!”** — In all things, at all times, with all creatures, and in all places, *“the LORD hath his way!”*

- In Creation!
- In Providence!
- In Grace!

We rejoice in the glorious sovereignty of our great God, knowing that God always exercises his

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sovereignty over all things for the redemption and salvation of his people (vv. 4-6; Isaiah 45:7, 22; 50:2; 51:10-12).

(Nahum 1:4-6) 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.

(Isaiah 45:7) I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*.

(Isaiah 45:22) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else.

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(Isaiah 50:2) Wherefore, when I came, *was there* no man? when I called, *was there* none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because *there is* no water, and dieth for thirst.

(Isaiah 51:10-12) *Art* thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? (11) Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy *shall be* upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; *and* sorrow and mourning shall flee away. (12) I, *even I, am* he that comforteth you: who *art* thou, that thou shouldest be afraid of a man *that* shall die, and of the son of man *which* shall be made *as* grass.

Even as the prophet describes the judgment of God, the fierce anger of his wrath, he raises a question



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which, when answered, carries a message of hope for sinners. — “*Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide the fierceness of his anger?*” Not me! Not you! God’s wrath would consume us like a snowflake in a blast furnace! But the Lord Jesus Christ, our great Substitute, stood before the indignation of almighty God and consumed his wrath for us!

Do you see these attributes of God? The Lord is jealous. The Lord is longsuffering. The Lord is omnipotent. The Lord is just. The Lord is sovereign! Now read verse 7.

6. “**The LORD is good!**” — Oh, I like that! Our great God is good! Goodness is as essential to God’s Being as is his sovereignty, his justice, his truth, and his holiness. In fact, the very name “God” is an abbreviation of the word “good.”

**Proposition:** Goodness is the character of our God; and the goodness of God gives us hope, comfort, and

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strength in the midst of our trials and sorrows in this world.

**Divisions:** Let me briefly show you three things which Nahum here declares about our great and glorious God.

1. *“The LORD is good.”*
2. *“The LORD is a stronghold in the day of trouble.”*
3. *“The LORD knoweth them that trust in him.”*

Our text is full of God. It brims over with his praises. Out of this fullness may our souls be filled this hour.

**THE LORD IS GOOD**

1<sup>st</sup> — Nahum declares, **“THE LORD IS GOOD!”** Nahum has been talking about the storm of God’s wrath, the terror of his justice, the greatness of his anger, whirlwinds, shaking mountains, melting hills, and burning earth. Then, he comes to a blessed, calm, serene island of rest — *“The LORD is good.”* I can no more explain the goodness of God than a thimble could contain the ocean. But I can tell you some of

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the things I know about God's goodness. **I know that...**

**God is essentially good.** — Goodness is essential to God. Without it he would not be God. Goodness is so essentially the character of God that, as John Gill has observed, “There is nothing but goodness in God, and nothing but goodness comes from him” (James 1:13-14).

- He has ordained and uses evil, overruling it for good (Psalm 76:10).
- He afflicts his children and brings many evil things upon us, but he makes the evil work for good to us (Romans 8:28: Proverbs 12:21).

**Illustration:** *Joseph* (Genesis 50:20)

- God punishes sin with vengeance, but even that punishment of sin is good, as a vindication of justice and the protection of Kingdom.

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**God is singularly good.** — He is the only good One in the universe. — “*There is none good, but One; that is God* (Matthew 19:17).

“God’s goodness is the root of all goodness. Our goodness, if we have any, springs out of his goodness” (William Tyndale).

**God is eternally and immutably good** (Malachi 3:6). — The goodness of God never varies, changes, or alters. He is good, always good, good in each of his glorious Persons.

- God the Father is good.
- God the Son is good.
- God the Holy Spirit is good.

**God is good in all his acts of grace** (Ephesians 1:3-14).

(Ephesians 1:3-14) Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: (4) According as he hath chosen

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us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. (7) In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (8) Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; (9) Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (10) That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: (11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. (13) In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard

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the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

**God is good in all his works of providence** (Romans 8:28). — *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”*

- In all that he has done!
- In all that he is doing!
- In all that he shall hereafter do!

**God is infinitely, incomparably, immeasurably good.** — Who can measure the goodness of God? To what shall his goodness be compared? He is good beyond our highest estimation of what good is.

**God is good to his own elect** (Psalm 23:6).

(Psalm 23:1-6) The LORD *is* my shepherd; I

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shall not want. (2) He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. (3) He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. (5) Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“*The LORD is good!*” — That is a sentence worthy of constant meditation. Eternity itself will not tell out the fulness of God’s goodness. And all his goodness is directed toward us at all times!

**A STRONGHOLD**

2<sup>nd</sup> — Nahum says, “**THE LORD IS A STRONGHOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE.**” —

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The only place of safety in this world is the place we find beneath the shadow of his wings (Proverbs 18:10). The LORD, who is good, is our stronghold, our place of refuge.

**In the day of trouble, the LORD is our refuge**  
(Hebrews 6:18; 4:16).

(Proverbs 18:10) The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

(Hebrews 6:13-20) For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, (14) Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. (15) And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. (16) For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation *is* to them an end of all strife. (17) Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: (18) That by



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two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: (19) Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; (20) Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.

(Hebrews 4:16) Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

**We have our days of trouble as long as we live in this world, but notice how Nahum describes them.**

- Every day of trouble is “*the*” day of God’s appointment.
- Every day of trouble is temporary — only the “*day*” of trouble (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

(2 Corinthians 4:17-18) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far

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more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory; (18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

- Whatever the trouble may be, the Lord is our Stronghold in the midst of the “*trouble*,” every kind of trouble (Hebrews 4:16).

**What is a stronghold?** — A stronghold is a mighty fortress for the protection of citizens against the aggressions of enemies. It is...

- A place of safety.
- A place of peace.
- A place of residence.
- A place of provision.

**THE LORD KNOWS**

3<sup>rd</sup> — I like this last statement in verse 7. — “**THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT TRUST IN HIM.**” — Do you trust in him? Do you trust the Lord

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Jesus Christ, his finished work, his abundant grace, his many promises, his providential rule, his unerring wisdom? Do you trust this great, mighty, good God? If you do, hear this and be of good comfort. — “*The LORD knoweth them that trust in him.*” That word “*knoweth*” is pregnant with consolation. **It means...**

**The LORD has foreordained and predestinated them that trust in him** (Romans 8:29).

(Romans 8:28-32) And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. (31) What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? (32) He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how

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shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

**The LORD everlastingly loves them that trust in him** (Jeremiah 31:3).

- Without cause.
- Without condition.
- Without beginning.
- Without change.
- Without end.

**The LORD is intimately acquainted with them that trust in him** (Matthew 10:30). **He knows...**

- Who they are.
- Where they are.
- What they need.

**The LORD graciously approves of them that trust him** (Ephesians 1:6 — “Accepted!”).

**The LORD holds loving communion with them that trust in him** (John 15:15).

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(John 15:15) Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

**The LORD tenderly cares for them that trust in him** (Isaiah 43:1-5).

(Isaiah 43:1-5) But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. (2) When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. (3) For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. (4) Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I

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have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. (5) Fear not: for I *am* with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west.

- He is with you.
- He will protect you.
- He will provide for you.
- He will help you.
- He will keep you.

Tamar may disguise herself so that Judah does not know her. Isaac, through dimness of sight, may passover Esau and bless Jacob. Joseph may forget, or be forgotten by, his brethren. Solomon may not be able to tell who the child belongs to. And Christ may come to his own and not be received. But “*the LORD knoweth them that trust in him.*”

- He knows Daniel in the lion’s den.
- He knows Job on the dunghill.
- He knows Peter in prison.
- He knows Lazarus at the rich man’s gate.

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- He knows Abel falling to the ground by his brother's wrath.
- He knows me.
- And he knows you (2 Timothy 2:19).

(2 Timothy 2:19) 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.

**And the LORD will publicly own them that trust him** (Revelation 3:5).

(Revelation 3:5) He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

- He owns us now.
- He owns us before the throne (1 John 2:1-2).
- He will own us before all worlds in the last day.

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**APPLICATION**

1. Let us ever trust the goodness of God, even when we cannot see his goodness.
2. Let us flee to and abide in our mighty Stronghold.
3. Let us ever trust our Savior's loving care.
4. If the Lord who is good knows me, I want nothing else to satisfy me.
  - He knows eternally.
  - He knows perfectly.
  - He knows universally.

(Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31).

(Psalm 107:1) O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* forever. (2) Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; (3) And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. (4) They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.



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(5) Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. (6) Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he delivered them out of their distresses. (7) And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. (8) **Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!** (9) For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. (10) Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, *being* bound in affliction and iron; (11) Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: (12) Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and *there was* none to help. (13) Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saved them out of their distresses. (14) He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. (15) **Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!** (16) For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the

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bars of iron in sunder. (17) Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. (18) Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. (19) Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he saveth them out of their distresses. (20) He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions. (21) **Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!** (22) And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. (23) They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; (24) These see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep. (25) For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. (26) They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. (27) They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. (28) Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out

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of their distresses. (29) He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. (30) Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven. (31) **Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!** (32) Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. (33) He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground; (34) A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. (35) He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. (36) And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; (37) And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. (38) He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. (39) Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. (40) He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the

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wilderness, *where there is* no way. (41) Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh *him* families like a flock. (42) **The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.** (43) **Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.**

Amen!