

Title: The Lord is Good
Scripture: Nahum 1:1-8
Speaker: Josh Maness
Date: March 30, 2014

Nahum 1:1: "The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. 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. 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. 7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. 8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

The book of Nahum was written about 100 years after the book of Jonah. It shows how the Ninevites had once again turned their backs on God. This book describes God's judgment on this group of people. In the middle of God's anger and wrath comes his love. The message throughout the scripture of the Bible is that God is a refuge for those that come to Him.

1. At the beginning of verse 7, there is a **holy assurance**. "The Lord is good". God is never contradictory on anything he says. This should encourage the church and anyone who knows God tonight. Even though the world around us has turned their backs on God, we are given hope. We are given reassurance in this phrase "The Lord is good". What does the word good mean? Psalm 34:8 says *"O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him."* God's love is unconditional. We did nothing for him to show his love and goodness to us. God loved us so much that he did something about our future. God's love is an *agape* love. This love is a love that means it is strong enough to care about someone else.
2. Later in verse 7, it says we have a **holy assistance**. God is good not only when life is good, but when life is bad. In verse 7, it says that the Lord is "a strong hold in the day of trouble". Noah, Daniel, and Job are examples of men in the Bible who went to God when they had times of trouble. Job 5:6-8 says *"Although affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground; 7 Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward. 8 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:"* The people of God have a refuge in times of trouble. In verse 2, it says *"God is jealous"*. God sees us as precious objects, so for this reason he is a jealous God. When we came to him, we became HIS. It is because of this that he is our strong hold in times of trouble. I Peter 2:9 says *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"* God is our holy assistance.
3. At the end of verse 7, it says we have a **holy acquaintance**. There's a difference in knowing someone and knowing of someone. We have holy **fellowship**. *"...and he knoweth them that trust in him."* Even when we are in our lowest of lows and our highest of highs, he knows where we are. John 10:14 says *"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."* Psalm 23 says: *"The LORD is my shepherd; I 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 for ever."*

We have a holy assurance that God is good. God is with us **ALWAYS** with us.