

Nahum 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Analysis

Amidst Nahum's fierce prophecy of Nineveh's destruction, this verse shines as a beacon of hope for the faithful. Coming immediately after describing God's wrath and power (verses 2-6), verse 7 reveals the dual nature of God's character: terrifying to His enemies, yet good and protective to those who trust Him. "The LORD is good" (tov YHWH) is an unqualified declaration of God's essential goodness—His moral perfection, His beneficial disposition toward His people, and His covenant faithfulness.

"A strong hold in the day of trouble" (lema'oz beyom tzarah) uses military fortress imagery. The Hebrew ma'oz means stronghold, fortress, or refuge—an impregnable place of safety during attack. "In the day of trouble" refers to times of distress, calamity, or enemy oppression. While God brings devastating judgment on Nineveh (representing all who oppose Him), He simultaneously provides secure refuge for those who seek shelter in Him. The same power that destroys enemies protects His people.

"And he knoweth them that trust in him" (veyodea chosei bo) uses yadah (to know) in its relational sense—intimate, personal knowledge, not mere intellectual awareness. God doesn't just know about those who trust Him; He knows them personally, cares for them individually, and watches over them constantly. "Them that trust" (chosei, those who take refuge) describes active faith—running to God for protection rather than relying on human strength or alliances. This knowledge brings security: the omnipotent Judge who will destroy Nineveh knows His own

and will never mistake them for His enemies.

This verse encapsulates a crucial biblical paradox: God is both terrifying and comforting, wrathful and merciful, depending on one's relationship to Him. For those outside Christ, God is "a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29). For those in Christ, God is Abba Father (Romans 8:15). The same attributes that make God fearsome to the wicked make Him wonderful to believers. His power to judge assures that justice will prevail; His goodness assures He uses that power redemptively for His people.

Historical Context

Nahum prophesied between 663-612 BC, after Assyria conquered Thebes (No-Amon) in Egypt (663 BC, mentioned in 3:8) but before Nineveh's fall to Babylon (612 BC). For over a century, Assyria had terrorized the ancient Near East with brutal military campaigns. They destroyed Israel's northern kingdom (722 BC) and nearly conquered Judah during Hezekiah's reign (701 BC). Assyrian inscriptions boast of horrific atrocities—impaling victims, burning cities, deporting populations. Nahum prophesies Nineveh's total destruction as divine judgment for their wickedness.

Yet verse 7 provides assurance to Judah: while God will devastate Nineveh, He remains a stronghold for those who trust Him. This would have brought immense comfort to Judeans who had suffered under Assyrian oppression. God wasn't indifferent to their pain; He was preparing to judge their oppressor. Archaeological evidence confirms Nineveh's catastrophic destruction in 612 BC by combined Babylonian and Median forces. The city was so thoroughly destroyed that its location was lost for centuries, fulfilling Nahum's prophecy completely.

For the church, this verse provides timeless assurance. Though evil seems to triumph temporarily, God knows His own and will vindicate them. Throughout history, Christians facing persecution have found comfort in Nahum 1:7—God is their stronghold when earthly powers threaten them. The same God who judged Nineveh will judge all wickedness, but those who trust Christ have an eternal refuge.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's goodness to those who trust Him coexist with His wrath against those who oppose Him?
2. In what current 'day of trouble' do you need to experience God as your stronghold?
3. What does it mean that God 'knows' those who trust Him, and how should that personal knowledge affect your relationship with Him?
4. How should this verse shape Christian responses to injustice and oppression in the world?
5. In what ways does taking refuge in God differ from merely believing facts about God?

Interlinear Text

וְבַתְּרוּבָה יְהָנֵן הַיּוֹם לְמַעַן וְצַדְקָה יְדַעַת וְאֶתְנָהָרָה יְדַעַת
is good The LORD a strong hold in the day of trouble and he knoweth
H2896 H3068 H4581 H3117 H6869 H3045

בְּתֻרְבָּה כִּי
them that trust H0
H2620

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 2:19 (References Lord): 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.

John 10:27 (Parallel theme): My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

Lamentations 3:25 (Good): The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

John 10:14 (Good): I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Psalms 100:5 (Good): For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalms 27:5 (Parallel theme): For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 1:6 (References Lord): For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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

Isaiah 25:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.

Galatians 4:9 (Parallel theme): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?