The LORD Is Good, The LORD Is A Stronghold

Nahum 1:7-15 (ESV)

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him. But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness. What do you plot against the LORD? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time. For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried. From you came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor. Thus says the LORD, “Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart.” The LORD has given commandment about you: “No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile.” Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – A.W. Tozer

What do we think about God in the day of trouble?

John 16:32-33 (ESV)

Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Exodus 33:18-23 (ESV)

Moses said, “Please show me your glory.” And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name ‘The LORD.’ And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

What are we tempted to take refuge in when trouble comes?

Deuteronomy 32:36-37 (ESV)

For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants, when he sees that their power is gone and there is none remaining, bond or free. Then he will say, ‘Where are their gods, the rock in which they took refuge.’

*The thing that we turn to in the day of trouble is our functional savior*

Personal Power

Genesis 3:7 (ESV)

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Jeremiah 1:16 (ESV)

And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.

Purses

Psalm 52:7 (ESV)

See the man who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction!

Pleasure

Nahum 3:11 (ESV)

You also will be drunken; you will go into hiding; you will seek a refuge from the enemy.

Politics

Psalm 118:8-9 (ESV)

It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.

*What happens to those who seek refuge in personal power, purses, pleasure and politics?*

Panic

Revelation 6:15-17 (ESV)

Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

*The Ninevites’ thoughts of God revealed that in the day of trouble they reverted to their idolatrous tendencies*

We Do Not Take Refuge In Our Personal Power But In God’s Goodness

Psalm 31:19 (ESV)

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

Psalm 34:8 (ESV)

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

We Do Not Take Refuge In Our Purses, We Have God’s Riches

Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

We Do Not Take Refuge In Worldly Pleasures, We Have God’s Joy

Psalm 5:11-12 (ESV)

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O LORD; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

We Do Not Take Refuge In Politics, We Have God’s Redemption

Psalm 34:22 (ESV)

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Romans 8:22-23 (ESV)

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

We Do Not Panic In The Day Of Trouble, Because We Have Peace In God’s Presence

Psalm 46:1-3 (ESV)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

John 14:27 (ESV)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

We Take Refuge In The Rock Of Christ

Colossians 3:1-3 (ESV)

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.