

Stronghold

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knows them that trust him”
Nahum 1:7

Stronghold—The Hebrew word is *mo’oz*. You will never forget this word now because it will always remind you of The Wizard of Oz. The root is a verb meaning “to take refuge quickly.” In this case, a prefix has been added to the Hebrew root. The prefix *mem* changes the word so that it means “a place of refuge.”

The prophet Nahum reminds the people that there is no real safety in their wealth, political alliances or social structure. God is the only place of real protection. In fact, the Bible tells us that God refuses to protect those who substitute the things of this world for His grace and provision. He offers refuge to the poor, not the rich. He protects those who stand up for holiness, not the ones who trample on His guidance. He rescues the persecuted, not the powerful. God is a God of those in trouble. In the midst of sorrow, God is a reason for rejoicing. He will not fail us.

It is so easy to slip into the seduction of self-protection. We surround ourselves with false security. The bank account, the job, insurance, the house, the community, Medicare and a dozen other government programs, military superiority, legal contracts, even the simplest things like locks on the doors. All of these things can delude us into believing that our world is safe. But none of them is really enough. Life can undo all of our efforts in a single moment. We are truly fragile creatures surviving within the smallest margins of error. Should that be a cause for terror and alarm? No, says the Bible. It should remind us that God is our only true stronghold. And He knows everyone of His children by name.

Are you living your life on the fragile security of your own making? God wants you to do a “life security” analysis and sign up for the only real protection service you will ever need. *Ma’oz* is always open for business. It takes applications 24 hours a day. When you discover that life is really lived on the edge, will God be your stronghold.