

"Snakes and Stones" – Breaking the Stronghold of Unbelief in the Goodness of God

1 Chronicles 16:34

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

2 Chronicles 7:3

When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying, "He is good; his love endures forever."

Psalms 16:2

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing."

Psalms 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Psalms 34:10

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Jeremiah 29:11:

I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Purpose

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Definitions

Psalms 145:3-13

³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴ One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. ⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. ⁹ The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. ¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you. ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations

Psalms 103:1-5

¹ Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Glory Connection

Exodus 33:19

And the Lord said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

The Abundance of his Goodness

Psalm 145:3-7

³Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. ⁵They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Pursuit of His Goodness

Psalm 23:6

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

His Goodness Now Not Just Then

Psalm 27:13-14

¹³I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

All Other Gods

1 Samuel 12:21

Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.

Jeremiah 10:5

Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”

Jeremiah 16:19

Lord, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, “Our ancestors possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good.

His Goodness On Display

Psalm 86:14-17

¹⁴Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me—they have no regard for you. ¹⁵But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. ¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength in behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did. ¹⁷Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Jeremiah 33:9

Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.’

Psalm 126:1-3

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. ²Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” ³The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Isaiah 60:1-3

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ²See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. ³Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Joshua 21:45

Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Psalm 31:19

¹⁹How abundant are the good things that you have stored up for those who fear you, that you bestow in the sight of all, on those who take refuge in you.