

02 04 23

Goodness –Pt 1 God shows goodness to His children

This is a brief study on the word “goodness”. In this teaching we establish three points– (i) The Lord is abundant in goodness and truth, ii) The Lord showed His kindness to Israel, iii) God’s children have goodness.

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our three points–

1. The Lord is abundant in goodness and truth

“And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed...The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth” (Ex.34: 6).

2. The Lord God showed His goodness to Israel– he shall defend them

“The Lord of hosts shall defend them; and they shall devour, and subdue with sling stones; and they shall drink, [and] make a noise as through wine; and they shall be filled like bowls, and as the corners of the altar. [16] And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people: for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land. [17] For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty! corn shall make the young men cheerful, and new wine the maids” (Zech.9: 15–17).

3. God’s children have goodness

Hezekiah had goodness– He humbled himself for the pride of his heart so God blessed him with substance

“Notwithstanding Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, [both] he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah. [29] Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance...” (2 Chr.32:26,29)

Illustration

Parents are to keep their children safe, feed and water them from the goodness of their heart, and their earnings. But showing our goodness to our children is more than just buying them things, basic food, shelter and clothing, but is also imparting something of our soul, our life’s learnings, that they would not make the same blunders that we make. Whereas God has a perfect balance between providing his children with what they ask for, and what they need as all His ways are perfect!

Questions of the scriptures

- i) Why did God’s Israel not have goodness?
- ii) What was Israel’s response to God’s goodness”

Answers from the scriptures

i) When Israel played the whore she was not satisfied with the goodness of the Lord
“Thou hast played the whore also with the Assyrians, because thou wast unsatiable; yea, thou hast played the harlot with them, and yet couldest not be satisfied”
(Ez.16: 28).

ii) Israel’s response – they Praised the Lord for His goodness Ps.107: 8– “Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness...!
Israel rejoiced in God’s goodness He showed in their building His house– 2Chr 6:40.

Let us always proclaim God’s goodness, be satisfied with, and glad in heart for, whatever substance He blesses us with, and not as the heathen that speak of their own goodness. Next week we look at the goodness of God in Christ Jesus!