

*The Pervasive
Thread
of Good*

The B. I. B. L. E., yes that's the book for me...

- It's not a book, it is 66 books.
- They are not all, technically, books, some are letters.
- It was written over some 1500 years.
- It was penned by over 40 writers, many unnamed.
- It's writing was guided by the Holy Spirit of God to assure its message accurately revealed God's desire.
- It was written in a variety of forms or genre. It has Narrative, 40%, Poetry, 30%, Prophecy, 27% , Law, Apocalypse, letters, Wisdom, and History, plus fables, parables, riddles, maxims, monologues and dialogues.

There Are
Significant
“Threads” Woven
Through The Fabric
Of Scripture
As Part Of
It’s Divine Design.



Among Those Themes Or Threads Are...

- “See, Desire, Take”
- “Passing Through Water”
 - Unfailing Love
 - “Do Not Be Afraid”
 - Exodus
 - Justice
 - Righteousness
 - Grace
 - Covenant
 - Priesthood
- Tree Of Life
- Redemption
 - Gardens
 - Wisdom
- Temple, Tabernacle
 - Atonement
 - Obedience
 - Name
 - Sacrifice
 - Good

From The First Pages Of Scripture,
“*Tov*” (Good), Summarizes
Who God Is And What God Does,
Who God Wants Us To Be And
How God Wants Us To Live.

God's Creation Is Good – Genesis One

- *And God saw that the light was good. (4)*
- *And God saw that it (land/sea) was good. (10)*
- *And God saw that it (vegetation) was good. (12)*
- *And God saw that it (sun and moon) was good. (18)*
- *And God saw that it (sea and sky life) was good. (21)*
- *And God saw that it (land creatures) was good. (25)*
- *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. (31)*

God, Alone, Is *Tov*.

Psalm 119:68 (NLT2)

*You are good and do only good;
teach me your decrees.*

When Moses Asked To See God's Glory...

Exodus 33:19 (NIV)

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.

God's *Tov*, Goodness, Is Inextricably
Connected To His Name, YHWH, His Identity.

God Is *Tov*, Good, And God Does *Tov*, Good.

Joshua 21:45 (NIV)

Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

Psalms 23:6 (NIV)

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

God Relentlessly Pursues Us With *Tov*

Psalm 34:8-10 (NLT2)

Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! Fear the LORD, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.

Those Experiencing This *Tov* Say...

Psalm 73:1 (NLT2)

*Truly God is good to Israel,
to those whose hearts are pure.*

Psalm 73:28 (NLT2)

*But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have
made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell
everyone about the wonderful things you do.*

All Who Draw Near To God, Discover That The
God Of *Tov* Is Full Of Love.

Psalm 86:1-10 (NLT2)

*Bend down, O LORD, and hear my prayer; answer me,
for I need your help. Protect me, for I am devoted to
you. Save me, for I serve you and trust you. You are my
God. Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you
constantly. Give me happiness, O Lord, for I give
myself to you.*

O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. Listen closely to my prayer, O LORD; hear my urgent cry. I will call to you whenever I'm in trouble, and you will answer me.

No pagan god is like you, O Lord. None can do what you do! All the nations you made will come and bow before you, Lord; they will praise your holy name. For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God.

Tov is God's Design For All Creation

- God gave a formless, empty, world, a design, a purpose, and a function.
- In Genesis 1, the Septuagint translates *Tov* with its Greek equivalent, *kalos*, meaning “beautiful,” “excellent.”
- *Tov* is all about beauty, aesthetics, and what pleases the senses of sight and sound. Music, architecture, art, a delicious meal, a bird singing, a dog on point, an infant laughing, and people loving others, all are *Tov*.

When We Live According To God's Design, We
Become People Who Love.

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Ephesians 5:18b

...be filled with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

It Takes Time For The Spirit To Produce These Qualities of *Tov* In A Person.

Tov is active. It happens as a Spirit-filled person lives and serves in *Tov* ways. It is visible in what is done.

Acts 10:37-38 (NIV)

You know what has happened throughout Judea, ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Jesus Identified Himself As Good.

John 10:11 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:14 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me...and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Jesus Commands His Disciples To Be About Doing Good.

Luke 6:35-36 (NIV)

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

True Believers Are Known By Good Fruit

Matthew 7:17-20 (NIV)

Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Paul Commended The Roman Christians For Their Goodness.

Romans 15:14 (NIV)

*I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you
yourselves are full of goodness...*

Warning, Promise And Commands!

Galatians 6:7-10 (NIV)

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

We Have A Responsibility To...

- Know the Goodness of God.
- Become the Goodness of God.
 - Do the Goodness of God.
- Tell the Goodness of God.

This Week's Assignment: Weave This
Thread Into Your Life.

Communicate
In Person, By Phone, Text, Facebook,
By Any Means,
How The Lord Has Been
Good To You.