

Reflections on Nahum Chapter 1: My Testimony of Job Searching

Catherine Zhou / 2025-02



Reading Nahum chapter 1 was particularly touching for me. While this chapter vividly describes God's wrath and judgment upon Nineveh, it also reveals His righteousness and justice. Verse 7 states, "The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."

This verse reminded me of my own experience. Due to tightening policies, practicing faith in China became increasingly difficult. Additionally, my industry was severely impacted, so after working for three years, I decided to pursue a master's degree in Singapore, hoping to secure a job there after graduation. From my first semester, I started job hunting, confident that my North American study experience, three years of work experience, and native Chinese language skills would help me land a good job. However, reality was harsh. Singapore prioritizes job opportunities for its citizens, and despite numerous interviews, many employers told me that while I met the job requirements, they were unable to sponsor a work visa for junior positions. I kept praying and seeking help from friends, trying every possible opportunity for interviews, hoping to find a job in Singapore.

Time flew by, and as graduation approached, I still had not received a single offer. I was overwhelmed with anxiety. Then, a businessman from Chaoshan (潮汕) area of Guangdong (广东) province reached out to me after reviewing my resume. He owned a factory in Singapore and was willing to provide a work visa. I was full of hope and attended the online interview. However, something unexpected happened during the interview—he asked for my Chinese zodiac sign and birth date. Initially, I thought it was just a routine question, but later, I realized that he planned to consult a fortune-teller to check if our fates were compatible. My heart sank, knowing this was not pleasing to God.

After the fortune-telling, he called me back, saying that we were a good match and that he could hire me. He enthusiastically introduced his factory and even highlighted a temple nearby where he worshipped the god of wealth daily. As he passionately spoke about his Buddhist beliefs, I couldn't hold back and told him that I was a Christian and could not participate in such religious activities. His tone immediately changed. He mentioned that he had hired a Christian before who frequently invited colleagues to church, which he strongly disliked. Thus, he asked me to promise that I wouldn't do the same.

After the interview, I knelt down in tears, praying to God, *“Is this really the path You have prepared for me?”* If I had to make a choice, I knew I had to reject the offer. But at the same time, I had no job offers from China or Singapore. Those days were filled with sleepless nights. One night, during prayer, I finally understood—just as God had led me through the pandemic despite my unwillingness to return to China, He had still blessed me through an experience I had not desired. Perhaps this time would be no different. Though I wanted to stay in Singapore, God's plans were higher than mine, and I was willing to submit to His will. I prayed, *“Lord, I do not know the path ahead, but I entrust it into Your hands. Wherever You lead me, I ask only for a suitable church, so that I may continue to have a stable spiritual life in my new place.”*

This experience taught me a great lesson in obedience. A few weeks later, things took an unexpected turn. During class, my professor mentioned that he was arranging internship opportunities for the next academic year and that students interested could email him for details. I immediately wrote to him, explaining my situation. He replied, *“Since you are about to graduate, you don't need an internship. I'll give you a contact; reach out to them to see if there's a full-time position available.”*

That's how I got in touch with my future department head. When I saw on his profile the words "*God is good all the time,*" I had an indescribable feeling—this was the path God had prepared for me! This offer turned out to be significantly better than the one I had turned down in terms of salary, benefits, vacation days, and work environment. It perfectly fulfilled the verse, "*The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him.*"

After joining the company, I discovered that my direct supervisor was also a Christian. Through His miraculous ways, God brought different people into my life, teaching me that being a Christian is not just about Sundays. I am also a Christian from Monday to Friday, called to be the salt and light in my workplace and life, bearing witness to the living God.