

## PREFACE

There are 155 instances recorded in the Old Testament in which an individual, a group, or the Hebrew nation prayed to God for something specific. And His response? *In 139 cases, or 90 percent of the time, God assented to the request!*

Now if growing up, our father acceded to our wishes 50 percent of the time, would we not think we had the best father in the world? Accordingly, it is the thesis of this book that despite all the suffering we see around us, including that which we ourselves might be subject to, God is indeed good, and only wishes the best for us! Yet if we don't understand why things often do not appear that way, should that be surprising? We are human, after all, and could not possibly know why God allows certain things to happen.

Still, it is amazing not only how much control we *do* have over our lives, but how simple it is to bring ourselves good fortune. As the sages of old taught:

God repays us in equal measure for how we treat each other. When you show compassion for another, God shows compassion for you. When you are generous to those that are less fortunate, God will repay you double. When you deliberately hurt another, God will ignore your prayers when someone sets out to hurt you. But when you go out of your way for another, God goes out of His way for you.