

Nahum 1

v1

“The burden or oracle (the thing to be lifted up) concerning Nineveh”

- There were two books prophesying against this city of Ninevah. It is widely believed that Nahum was written around 150 years after Jonah and this allows us to surmise some historical context.
- Compare the judgement/message of this book with Jonah. In both cases mercy is noticeably lacking in the message, and destruction is the theme. The word sent is not a sympathetic plea for repentance. The message is not a reasoning with or pleading for them to turn from sin. There is no mercy to those who abide outside of The Lord and His ways no matter what their history might be. Both Jonah and Nahum are pronouncements of damning judgement!
- After the great repentance and revival in Jonah's day that there was a relapse/relaxing/rebelling/return to wickedness. There was a backsliding. Let this be a clear lesson that repentance is not a ticket to life and blessing. Abiding in The Lord and walking before Him are essential!
- The Lord is rich in love and mercy and He had demonstrated His amazing Grace to Ninevah but they had turned their back on the truth. I wonder if such prophecies could be made against the UK and other Western countries today.

v2-3

“The Lord is slow to anger and great in power and will by no means clear the guilty.”

- This reminder and declaration that The Lord is slow to anger and in great power contrasts and emphasises the great wrath of God! Our Lord is not merely a raging tyrant or a possessive, angry king. He is not a hard task master dealing unjust punishment.
- 2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- Romans 9:22 *What if God, although fully intending to show [the awfulness of] His wrath and to make known His power and authority, has tolerated with much patience the vessels (objects) of [His] anger which are ripe for destruction?*
- Revelation 6:16 *And they called to the mountains and the rocks, Fall on (before) us and hide us from the face of Him Who sits on the throne and from the deep-seated indignation and wrath of the Lamb.-*
- There is a day of wrath and judgement appointed and there will be no slackness. On that day there will be no mercy, no grace, no salvation. Now is the appointed/accepted time for grace, today is the day of Salvation... But on that day... There will only be judgement.
- The patience and longsuffering of The Lord only serves to highlight and emphasise the rebellion and depravity of selfish, sinful man. Yes The Lord is patient but when that patience is up there will be no clearing of the guilty!

v6

“Who can stand before His indignation? And who can stand up and endure the fierceness of His anger?”

- Psalm 130:3 *If You, Lord, should keep account of and treat [us according to our] sins, O Lord, who could stand?*

v7

“The Lord is good, a Strength and Stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge and trust in Him.”

- The Lord truly is good and so abundantly good to us. We don't deserve His mercy. We don't deserve His grace.
- Genesis 32:10 *I am not worthy of the least of all the mercy and loving-kindness and all the faithfulness which You have shown to Your servant...*
- Consider this in light of Matthew 7:23 *And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly [disregarding My commands].* Many people will claim to know The Lord but they never took refuge in Him. Man may know God's word, ways, testimonies and service, but never surrender to His Salvation. Many may claim “Christianity” but never take refuge in the cross of Jesus Christ and His Lordship.

v8

“But with an overrunning flood He will make a full end of [Nineveh's very] site and pursue His enemies into darkness.”

- The judgement is not something that can be recovered from. It will be devastating and complete. There will be no trace of wickedness left.
- God's dealing with sin is never partial! It is utter and complete! This applies in principal and in practical working out in our lives!
- Galatians 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me...* Paul came to a “full end”. The flesh and wickedness were judged severely and removed completely.

v10

“For [the Ninevites] are as bundles of thorn branches [for fuel]... they shall be consumed like stubble fully dry [in the day of the Lord's wrath].”

- John 15:6 *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

v12-13

“Though I have afflicted you [Jerusalem], I will not cause you to be afflicted [for your past sins] any more.”

- 2 Corinthians 7:8-11 *For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle has made you sorry, though it were but for a season. [9] Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that you sorrowed to repentance: for you were made sorry after a godly manner, that you might receive damage by us in nothing. [10] For Godly sorrow works repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world works death. [11] For behold this selfsame thing, that you sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*
- The Lord does and will afflict His people. Sin had consequences and The Lord will make clear to us the destructive nature of sin and rebellion against Himself. His chastisement may be very great and very painful! Punishment is not a wrist slap!! But The Lord's rod is far more desirable than the final consequence of sin.
- Psalm 23:4 *...your rod and your staff they comfort me.*
- Hebrews 12:8 *But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards, and not sons.*

“Behold! upon the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings [telling of the Assyrian's death], who publishes peace!”

- The very feet of the one who brings a message of hope are praised. There is one who is coming with a message of Salvation! This may well speak of Christ but may also be attributed to those who preach and proclaim His Gospel to the world.
- To find comfort in the feet of such a message is to say that we are clinging on to the promised hope. There is a desperation. It is the faith to say that *“Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”* (Psalm 30:5) It is to confess that there is a time of weeping now but how beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim that joy is coming!!
- *Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace, who brings good tidings of good, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, Your God reigns!*

“Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; perform your vows.”

- This is said in faith for the judgement has not yet been carried out. Even in captivity and bondage, celebrate for deliverance is coming!
- May we have our eyes looking upward with hope and a rejoicing in our hearts for the deliverance of The Lord. May our faith be sound and steadfast, looking unto Jesus...
- Rejoice in The Lord for redemption draws near!