

Nahum 3

v1

“Woe to the bloody city”

- This judgement is not mere revenge or spite. This judgement is will be so severe that there will be a great lamenting because of the suffering and loss.
- “woe” indicates the disappointment. The wrath/punishment of God does not come with hatred for the people. The Lord does not deal out such judgement with gladness. It is a grief to The Lord to have to deal with man like this.

v5

“Behold, I am against you, says the Lord of hosts”

- A repetition of The Lord’s position and His power. (Nahum 2:13)
- The inclusion of “Lord of hosts” emphasises the overwhelming might and power of The Lord. He is the captain of the armies of The Lord! There is no power in the world that can stand against Him.
- Ninevah’s fate is certain and dire. The whole chapter is full of judgement without mercy and without hope. Judgement that is severe and crushing. Ninevah’s verdict is damning! Consider this with the message that Jonah brought 150 years earlier... *Jonah 3:4 “and he cried, Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”*. He was not preaching repentance, he didn’t bring “discussion” or empathy, forgiveness or understanding... but judgement and consider the effect such a message had on the people.
- I wonder if we should give consideration to preaching like this at times. Certainly, we need to preach the righteous judgement and wrath of The Lord more. However, we ought to present such preaching with a longing for men to respond and repent as they did in Jonah’s day.

“I will lift up your skirts over your face, and I will let the nations look on your nakedness [O Nineveh] and the kingdoms on your shame.”

- Their devastation will be a testimony of The Lord’s righteous judgement and sovereignty. Their punishment will be carried out before all nations to be made an example, a shame and a disgrace.
- Their wickedness, their lewdness, their secret sins, their lies, and their treachery will be exposed for all to see.

v6

“I will cast abominable things at you and make you filthy, treat you with contempt, and make you a gazingstock.”

- How mighty the fall will be. From a city of power, prestige, wealth and fame... To disgust, ruin and a truly shocking site. We can look at many fallen empires and fallen people. How quickly everything they have built can come crashing down!

v7

“And all who look on you will shrink and flee from you”

- The fall from pride is always a long and crushing. To see all your works undone, found out, shamed and ruined, to have your guilt revealed and your lack exposed (to yourself and others... This in itself is a judgement of inner pain, loss and turmoil.
- People truly look on with shock and disgust. They will want to have nothing to do with the filth that is exposed and the wrath that is carried out.

v8-10

“Are you better than No-amon [Thebes, capital of Upper Egypt]”

- The Lord reminds them of the utter devastation He caused to Egypt because of their rebellion against Him.
- Do not forget that God is indeed wrath! Do not forget how He has come with mighty hand against rebellious, wicked people. Remember Egypt, remember Ninevah, remember Rome...
- We would also do well to consider how carefully The Lord has punished and rebuked His own people when they become no better than “No-amon”. Consider The Word of The Lord through Jeremiah... *Jeremiah 19:3,8-9 And say, Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am going to bring such evil upon this place that the ears of whoever hears of it will tingle. [8] And I will make this city an astonishment and a horror and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss [in scorn] because of all its plagues and disasters. [9] And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and they shall eat each one the flesh of his neighbor and friend in the siege and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their lives distress them.*

v15

“[But] there [in the very midst of these preparations] will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off; it will destroy you”

- We hear so much of God’s grace, mercy, empathy, longsuffering, patience and acceptance and forgiveness... To the point that much of it is blasphemy! But there is no mercy for sin! God will have His way with it and all that will cling to it will share in its destruction!
- God does not wink at sin. He does not excuse it or allow it. We too easily forget how much God HATES sin! It is putrid to Him! It is offensive to all that He is! We ought to fear God and fear the sin that would lead to separation from Him!