



Nahum

RECALL

ASK THIS:

How do you react when you hear a severe weather warning? How is Nahum's prophecy like a weather warning? How should you respond?

READ ALOUD: SERMON RECAP

Over a century after Jonah and the great revival of Nineveh, the people of that city once again turned their backs on God, He uses another prophet, named Nahum, to proclaim His judgment on this city and deliver Israel from the cruelty of the Assyrians and its capital city, Nineveh. From this week's message, we learned that past intimacy with God must be maintained and cannot be taken for granted. Secondly, we learned that God will not be mocked and will not put up with persistent sin. Nineveh's fate is the future for all nations and peoples that turn their backs on God. God's justice will prevail; we can take heart in that. God's people will be delivered.

REVEAL

PRAY TOGETHER:

Take a few moments and ask God to help you discern, understand and apply the spiritual truth(s) of this week's lesson.

READ TOGETHER:

Nahum 1:2-3a (HCSB) "The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; The LORD takes vengeance and is fierce in wrath. The LORD takes vengeance against His foes; He is furious with His enemies. The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will never leave the guilty unpunished."

Nahum 1:6-7 (HCSB) "Who can withstand His indignation? Who can endure His burning anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, even rocks are shattered before Him. The LORD is good, a stronghold in a day of distress; He cares for those who take refuge in Him."

REFLECT

READ ALOUD

Some information About Nahum

1. Nahum is the author. His name means “comfort” – comfort for Judah or “consolation” -- and is a short form of Nehemiah (“comfort of Yahweh”).
2. Given how little is known about Nahum, the best we can do is narrow the time frame in which the Book of Nahum was written to somewhere between 663 and 612 B.C.
3. Nahum is an Elkoshite (1:1), referring either to his birthplace or his place of ministry.
4. In chapter 1, Nahum tells what God is going to do. (Destruction decreed) In
In chapter 2, Nahum tells how God is going to do it. (Destruction described)
In chapter 3, Nahum tells why God is going to do it. (Destruction defended)

RECOGNIZE

READ THIS:

Recall Main Points from the message:

Believers who insist on a biblical world-view are increasingly coming under persecution (e.g., homosexuality, sanctity of marriage, creationism). But there is hope; the God of the Bible will humble His enemies and exalt His people. The great revivals of the past three centuries will not keep our country from a future doom. But as always, God will sustain a remnant.

RESPOND

Discuss:

1. Nahum 1:2 says “The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is fierce in wrath, The Lord takes vengeance against His foes; He is furious with His enemies”.
 - Jealous. Vengeful. Wrathful. How do these words in verse 2 align with your image of God?
 - What is your response when someone says “I can’t believe in a God who would allow tragedy?” “How can we communicate the true picture of God (justice and mercy) to our community, our family and our friends?”
2. Nahum 1:3 says “the Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will never leave the guilty unpunished.” God was very patient with Nineveh, allowing many years for them to repent from their sins before delivering judgment on them.
 - When you look at the world around you, what atrocities make you say “that’s just not right?”
 - Discuss the difficulties you have in leaving the vengeance up to God and trusting that one day He will ultimately set it right.
 - Do you feel that God has been slow to anger toward America, or do you feel we are experiencing God’s judgment now?
 - How do you feel when nations or individuals go unpunished for sins?
 - Do you feel God wants us to be vengeful when we have been overtly wronged? Read Romans 12:19.

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3. The book of Nahum teaches us that God is in complete control of the nations. In Nahum's day, Assyria, with Nineveh as its capital, was a force to be reckoned with. Nahum 2:8-10 says "Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!" The attackers would leave Nineveh completely devoid of its treasures, most of which had been taken from its own victims, such as Israel. Ninevites were in a state of disbelieving grief and shock. The unimaginable had happened. They clearly thought that they were in control of their empire, their enemies, and their destiny. This false sense of control continues today in both nations and individuals.
 - What are our nation's greatest sources of strength?
 - What false confidences does our nation trust in?
 - What are the greatest external threats to America?
 - What are the greatest internal threats to America?

 4. Read Nahum 3:1-4. This chapter describes the sins of Nineveh. This great city is charged with the sins of murder (Nah. 3:1), whoredom and witchcraft (Nah. 3:4). Look in the HCSB study notes under Nahum 3:10 & 19) and discover other atrocities practiced by the Assyrians.
 - Discuss in detail how the sins of Nineveh and America are similar.
 - What signs do you see of God's judgment on America?
 - What role do you play in those sins?

 5. It is important to notice in Nahum 1:12-13 that God's messages to Nineveh and Judah grow increasingly passionate. His words to Nineveh grow more judgmental while His words to Judah are of comfort and hope. These verses clearly demonstrate God's goodness/salvation and justice/judgment in the hope of redeeming mankind to himself.
 - How has your perception of God developed with the words of Nahum?
 - Do you trust God's word and ability to judge, or do you trust your own judgment more?