

nahum



Study Outline

Main Point: Nahum's prophecies can be viewed in many ways as an amendment to the book of Jonah. Though God had spared His wrath on the Assyrian capital of Nineveh because they heeded His Word and repented of their sins, sadly they had forgotten their revival as subsequent generations reverted back to their wicked and brutal tendencies. One-hundred years later, God finally declares judgment on Nineveh and Nahum predicts, twenty years before the occasion, a detailed account of Nineveh's fall. (Nineveh was destroyed in 612 B.C.)

Nahum's prophecies are important to Scripture because they not only present God's righteous jealousy over the rebellion of His people, but they place this jealousy in context to the gentile world. God indites the Assyrians because they had turned from following Him, but He further promises coming destruction on the account of their crimes against humanity.

Historical & Scriptural Placement: (630 B.C.) Nahum ministered in the Southern Kingdom following the fall of Israel by the hands of the Assyrians in 722 B.C., but he came onto the scene some years before the fall of Judah. Because they both uniquely prophesied against Nineveh, Nahum's prophecies came approximately 100 years after Jonah.

OUTLINE OF NAHUM: JEALOUSY & GOODNESS OF GOD

CHAPTER 1: THEOLOGY: GOD'S JUST CHARACTER

- ch. 1:1 INTRODUCTION: BURDEN AGAINST NINEVEH
- ch. 1:2-3 GOD OF RIGHTEOUS JEALOUSY
- ch. 1:3-6 THE LORD HAS HIS WAY - WHO CAN STAND AGAINST HIM?
- ch. 1:7 LORD IS GOOD FOR THOSE WHO TRUST HIM
- ch. 1:8-15 GOD'S JUSTICE WILL DEMAND DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED

CHAPTER 2: DEMONSTRATION: DECISION TO DESTROY NINEVEH

- ch. 2:1-2 GOD WILL AVENGE ASSYRIA'S DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL
- ch. 2:3-12 PREDICTS NINEVEH'S DESTRUCTION
- ch. 2:13 GOD PROMISES TO UTTERLY DESTROY ASSYRIA FROM THE EARTH

CHAPTER 3: EXHIBITION: EXECUTION OF NINEVEH'S DESTRUCTION

- ch. 3:1-7 GOD FIGHTS AGAINST THE ASSYRIANS
- ch. 3:8-19 GOD WILL TREAT NINEVEH AS NINEVEH HAD TREATED OTHERS

Key Verse: "God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; the Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; the Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked." - Nahum 1:2-3



Day 1: Understood You....

Nahum 1:1 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What do you think it means to have a “burden” against Nineveh? Who had this burden (2). If Nineveh’s sin and wickedness was burdensome to God, what does this tell us about the heart of God? (3). How and to whom was a book of judgment supposed to provide comfort (Nahum means comfort)?

Day 2: God is Jealous....

Nahum 1:2 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though we often think of jealousy as being a less than desirable character trait, in what ways or context would jealousy be justified? (2). In what way does God’s jealous nature reveal His intentions towards you? (3). Have you been invoking God’s jealousy by your fickle heart toward the world?

Day 3: Slow Simmer....

Nahum 1:3 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though verse two makes it clear God has no problems exacting vengeance, verse three balances this picture in what way? (2). What does the fact “The Lord is slow to anger” teach us concerning God? (3). Is there anything you’ve been doing that would cause the anger of God to simmer?

Day 4: Stronghold....

Nahum 1:7 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In what way is the Lord your “stronghold?” (2). God is jealous and will judge His enemies. He’s equally good and will protect His people. What is the key to the way God interacts with you? (3). How would one know if you really trust God?

Day 5: Annihilation....

Nahum 2:1-13 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What was God’s two big complaints against the Assyrians? (2). How extensive will God’s judgment be concerning this brutal and wicked people? (3). History marvels that such a great people could cease to exist after 2000 years of domination. Since we know this was God’s doing, what should we learn concerning God and His judgment of unrepentant sin?

Day 6: Comes Around Goes Around....

Nahum 3:5-13 // THINKING POINT: (1). Why would God reference “No Amon” or the ancient city of Thebes in His declaration of judgment against the Assyrians? (2). Is it true that the way you treat people will often dictate how people treat you? (3). The way you treat other people seems to dictate the way others treat you, but what else does it seem to dictate?

DEVOTIONS

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