

Nahum – Compassionate

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I. God Is Powerful

A. Nahum delivered a burden or prophecy of calamity for Nineveh. “The ***burden of Nineveh***. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.” (NAHUM 1:1)

B. God sees and punishes sin. “***God is jealous***, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and *is* furious; ***the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries***, and he ***reserveth wrath for his enemies***.” (NAHUM 1:2)
“For the LORD thy ***God is a consuming fire***, even a jealous God.” (DEUTERONOMY 4:24)

C. God does things in His own time, but He does not forget. “***The LORD is slow to anger***, and great in power, ***and will not at all acquit the wicked***: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.” (NAHUM 1:3)

D. Do not get in the way of God’s justice. “Dearly beloved, ***avenge not yourselves***, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, ***Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord***.” (ROMANS 12:19)

E. God is the greatest friend His people could hope to have and the most terrible foe His enemies could fear; heaven and hell are real to God. “The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and ***he knoweth them that trust in him***. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and ***darkness shall pursue his enemies***.” (NAHUM 1:7-8)

II. Nineveh Will Pay for Neglecting Jonah’s Reprieve

A. Destruction is on its way; God has finished using Assyria to punish His people and now Nineveh will be punished for its excesses in that task. “***He that dasheth in pieces is come*** up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make *thy* loins strong, fortify *thy* power mightily. ***For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for*** the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.” (NAHUM 2:1-2)

B. The nation appointed to discipline God’s people took the task to excess and no one will come to help when its turn for justice arrives. “He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, ***he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth***.” (ISAIAH 14:6)

C. Nineveh had hurt the holy people without correcting them as assigned. “A man that beareth *false witness against his neighbour is a maul*, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.” (PROVERBS 25:18)

D. Consequently the punisher will now be tossed aside as a broken tool. “*How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken!* how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!” (JEREMIAH 50:23)

E. The great lion has roared for the last time. “*Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feeding place* of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion’s whelp, and none made *them* afraid? *The lion did tear in pieces* enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled *his holes with prey*, and his dens with ravin. Behold, *I am against thee, saith the LORD* of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and *the sword shall devour thy young lions*: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and *the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.*” (NAHUM 2:11-13)

III. Bad Times Are Coming

A. Nineveh will get what is coming to it. “*Woe to the bloody city!* it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;” (NAHUM 3:1)

B. God specifically condemns particular sins. “Because of the multitude of the *whoredoms* of the wellfavoured harlot, the *mistress of witchcrafts*, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.” (NAHUM 3:4)

C. The warrior nation will not have what it needs when the time comes to defend rather than oppress. “Behold, *thy people in the midst of thee are women*: the gates of *thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies*: the fire shall devour thy bars.” (NAHUM 3:13)

D. The healing time was in the days of Jonah, but now the illness of sin is past treatment. “*There is no healing* of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon *whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?*” (NAHUM 3:19)

E. No one will rise to help the wicked tyrant on the day when accounts will be settled. “*There is none to plead thy cause*, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast *no healing medicines*. All thy *lovers have forgotten* thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an *enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity, because* thy sins were increased. Why criest thou for thine affliction? *thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because* thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.” (JEREMIAH 30:13-15)

