

The Prophet Nahum

Text: **Nahum 1: 7. The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.**

Nahum 1:14. The LORD has given a command concerning you: “Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, for you are vile.”

Nahum 3:19. Your injury *has* no healing; your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap *their* hands over you, for upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?

I want to tell (1) who Nahum was, (2) where he was from. (3) Also, the impact of the message against Nineveh and (4) the import of the message for those in Nahum’s day and to us.

Nahum- The Prophet of Comfort

Introduction: As with many of the prophets, little is given to us in specifics about the author.

The book opens, **(Nahum 1:1)” The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.**

Our author’s name and hometown are all that we’re given regarding his identity. His name means “*compassion*” or “*comfort*.” Often there is a connection between the prophet’s name and his message. But it is not the case with this prophet. His is a message of judgment, not comfort against Nineveh. If we remember, the people of Nineveh repented under the message of Jonah, but now they are under God’s judgment. Nahum’s message is one of the least comforting of the Minor Prophets. His birthplace is unknown.

J. Vernon McGee believed that Nahum knew something about Sennacherib’s attack on Jerusalem. He may have witnessed it. If so, he was a contemporary of both Isaiah and Micah.

Many like to study the books of Jonah and Nahum together. Between 100-150 years before Nahum appeared on the scene that Jonah went to Nineveh with God’s message

Nineveh was one of the largest and strongest and powerful of all the ancient kingdoms. They were a superpower; no one living in that area and time would expect any other country to overpower them, especially the Jews. God had been merciful when Nineveh repented under the preaching of Jonah, but now His judgement was getting ready to fall on Nineveh.

Nineveh's total collapse is one of wonders of the ancient world. Not only was the city defeated, it was obliterated. The site of the city was deserted. For at least 300 years. It disappeared so completely under the sands that many believed its existence was a myth. When God promised Nineveh would have **"no descendants to bear (her) name"** (Nahum 1:14) He wasn't kidding.

I believe that Nahum, in presenting the material with both condemnation and solemn concern, helps find the elusive balance between rejoicing and grieving. He. Gives us a message of success and shows us how to have the right kind of faith in certain victory.

First: We see the victory is rooted in God Himself. Judah could take no credit in Assyria's defeat. We can rejoice, but must do so, knowing the destruction of Assyria was God's victory and on His terms.

Second, we see that victory has a moral component. Nineveh was rebuked for her immorality and other sins, and these were listed as the reason for her defeat. We are forced to consider how our own culture compares. The conclusion we are forced to accept is that if God could find fault with these people, certainly He could find fault with us.

Third, we see that victory was not callous. God did not want to condemn Nineveh because He didn't value them. Rather, as we saw in the Book of Jonah, we saw that God exhibited concern for the Assyrians. His love extended beyond the borders of Israel. All through history, God wanted the Jews to share that. He was Jehovah God. We know that they did not do that. He sent Jonah with a message (one that he did not want to bring) that if they'd repent, God would spare them and bless them. That repentance lasted. For a while, but then they returned to their idolatrous ways. It reminds us of the message of the Book of Judges earlier in the history of God's dealing with the Jewish people. (Tell about what I call the "yo-yo effect.")

Nahum's Faith Lessons

We can take some faith lessons for

- (1) Israel;
- (2) the Nations;
- (3) the Church; and
- (4) for us personally.

Lessons for Israel:

1. God's promise of restoration and protection to the Jews in Nahum's days still hold true to this day, "The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him."
2. Israel as a nation must remember that she has received countless promises and blessings from God. Any victories Israel had in past and today must be noted that the victory comes from the Lord alone.
3. Israel, as in the past and today would do better to focus on religious revival. By trusting in Him she can find a stronghold better than any defense. God reminded Nahum and today reminds us that it is the Lord who is the refuge.

Lessons for the Nations.

1. Nations other than Israel face the same challenge. Certain victory is God's, and often nations find themselves on the losing side of a battle with Him.
2. No city or nation is too big or powerful to avoid God's wrath once He deems it necessary. We see that all over the Old Testament. Such as Egypt, Babylon and others
3. God had patience with Nineveh and Assyria, even as they were opposing Him. The patience of God did not last forever. But it must be remembered that God took similar action with His own people. A mere 30 years after Nineveh's destruction (612BC) the same conquering doom came to Jerusalem (582BC).
4. Although God did not spare Israel, He always kept His Word! He had promised a Redeemer! There had always been a remnant who were faithful.
5. If God wouldn't spare His own chosen nation, He would have no qualms about holding other nations accountable for their sins. (USA?)
6. We must ask ourselves: "Is our country on track for revival or ravaging?"

Lessons. For the. Church—The theme of the book is "Faith in certain victory."
How can we have faith in victory?

1. We have the promise that Jesus is coming again?
 - a. Jesus- John 14:1-6
 - b. The Holy Angels at the Ascension (Acts 1)
 - c. The testimony of the epistles (1 Thes. 4)
2. Our knowledge in the coming of the Lord is a great motivation to godly living
3. (Titus 2:11-14) ¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, ¹²bringing salvation to all men, ¹³instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹⁴looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of ¹⁵our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁶who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
4. "Christian Living in Expectation of the Return of Jesus. If We believe that God will keep His Promise-How shall We Live?"

- a) let us conduct ourselves in a manner that prepares for God's victory. We have changed kingdoms (Col. 1:12-14) - What. Does that mean?
 - (b) Let's stand against practices that oppose God's Word.
 - (c) We must advocate repentance on a national level.
5. We live out our faith while we wait for Jesus' return, whether we die in the Lord or meet Him in the air—
 6. The Last Will and testament of the Apostle Paul—2 Tim. 4:6-8. ⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
 7. We can stand firm on essential doctrines and proclaim our beliefs—living out our faith. — We are called to live out our faith in the here and now (1 John 2:15-17). ¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
 8. What should be our attitude toward those who oppose God and are bound for destruction? Rather than celebrate or mock we should intentionally show God's love and holiness.

Lessons for You (Us)—Concluding thoughts

1. Since God has promised a coming triumph, we should use that promise to give us joy. Paul said to Rejoice always—We must. Remember that Paul was in prison when he penned these words.
2. Nahum's message provided comfort to the people of Judah. They were able to (a) hear God's plans, (b) know His intent, and (c). celebrate what it would mean for their nation.
3. Nahum pointed out a future in which God's people could rejoice on God's certain victory.
4. But our hearts and the expressions of our faith should align with God's to know He is jealously pursuing what is best for us as well as for Himself.

Certain victory is ahead! Let's embrace it and celebrate it