

The Minor Prophets: Nahum

Key Passage

Nahum 1:12-15

12 Thus says the Lord, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.

13 And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."

14 The Lord has given commandment about you: "No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile."

15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.

Overview of Nahum

One-word summary for Nahum: **Vengeance**

Outline:

Nahum 1:1-8 – God powerfully appears in full power to punish evil

1:9-11 – The fate of evil nations

1: 12-15 – The fate of God's people

2 – The fall of Ninevah

3 – The fall of Assyria

3 Essential Gospel truths in Nahum:

1) God hates sin and grieves over the killing of the innocent – His judgement of evil and His wrath will be severe and should be feared by those who do evil

2) All people are called to humbly come before God's righteous judgement and cry out in repentance before God, confessing that we have all sinned and fall short of His glory

3) In His infinite grace and mercy, God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. While God will punish and destroy evil, He will also provide safety and life for his people in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The ultimate hope and comfort of God's people is in the fact that the full weight of God's wrath and judgement is poured out on Christ on the cross. By faith, they are made right with Him and have eternal life!

*"Let us wonder grace and justice, Join and point to mercy's store
When through grace in Christ our trust is: Justice smiles and asks no more
He Who washed us with His blood, has secured our way to God"*

–From the hymn "Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder" by John Newton

*"Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied!
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live."*

–From "In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Questions to think about:

- 1) In one sentence: What is Nahum about?

- 2) How can you apply the message of Nahum to your own life? How does this book serve as both warning and good news?

- 3) Where do you find hope and comfort in Nahum?

- 4) If someone were to say, “Nahum shows that the God of the Old Testament is a God of wrath, not the New Testament God of love,” how would you respond? Does Nahum only show God’s wrath?

- 4) If you only had Nahum, how would you share the gospel with someone who doesn’t know Christ?

NEXT WEEK: Zephaniah