

The Minor Prophets: Nahum

Key Passage

Zephaniah 3:15-17; 20

15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord.

Overview of Nahum

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

Outline:

Zephaniah 1:1-1:6 – Judgement against Judah

1:7-3:8 – The coming day of the judgement of the Lord

3:9-20 – The anticipation of joy and restoration

3 Essential Gospel truths in Nahum:

1) God hates sin and all of things in creation that have turned His people away from Him. He will destroy all of these things and set things back right.

2) God's judgement is not primarily intended to bring destruction, but God brings judgment to call people to repentance and purify His people

3) God calls His people to look forward to a day when He will dwell in their midst in a place where all evil and sadness is no more. He will exult and sing over them with gladness!

Questions to think about:

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

- 2) How do you see things God intended for beauty and good warped by the world? How have you warped things intended for beauty at times?

- 3) Where is there hope in Zephaniah 3? Look through the chapter and list the ways it can give God's people hope.

- 4) How can the message of Zephaniah be convicting for those who consider themselves Christians? Why must we constantly guard and check our hearts according to Zephaniah?

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

NEXT WEEK: Habakkuk