

Nahum: An End to God's Patience

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Nahum 1:7-8

*The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.*

*8 But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.*

Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of the Rings in 2001.

- In **760 BC**, Nineveh repent at **Jonah's preaching** and **God withheld His wrath**.
 - **150 years later Nineveh's sin and evil worse than before repentance.**
See outline at the end.
- **Now no chance to escape judgement:** no prophet sent, no warning, no call to repent.
 - **God patient for long time, but He is God of absolute justice.**

663-612 BC Lesson: There is an **end to God's patience** toward **sin.** Nahum 1:14a, 2:6, 13a, 3:1, 19

- **Destruction of 300-year-old empire seem unlikely: capital Nineveh largest in world.**
 - **Walls 8 miles around, 100' high, wide enough for 3 chariots side by side, moat 150' wide and 60' deep.... provisions to withstand 20-year siege.**
 - **God sovereign over nature and nations: use Babylonians and flood to judge Assyria.**

612 BC destroyed so completely Alexander the Great (331 BC) not know city been there.

- **Before 1842** (when Nineveh discovered), scholars thought **Nineveh was mythical, never existed.**
 - **Today Nineveh is fields, water tower for nearby village, cemetery, dump!**

Lesson of Nahum and city of Nineveh: there is an **end to God's patience** toward **sin.**

- **Patience in delay of execution of God's wrath upon evil for purpose of leading people to repent.** Nahum 1:3, Romans 2:4-5, 2 Peter 3:9-10
 - **God slow to anger, abundant in loving-kindness, do not interpret as indifference to sin.**

Not want to live in world where one in charge not care about evil or sin.... unhindered.

- **Judges that allow violate moral code without punishment are unjust.**
 - **Wrath God's real, emotional response to sin and evil.**
Deuteronomy 29:27-28

- God's wrath means he intensely hates everything opposed to His moral character and He will take action to correct it.
 - National and personal implications.

A just God does not leave guilty go unpunished, yet wrath seems negative concept.

- Reshape God without less desirable attributes...unbiblical. See Charles Spurgeon quote at the end.
 - Viewed alone, God's wrath arouse only fear and dread.

Must understand God's wrath rooted in justice and truth, His holiness and love.

- Father's love displayed at cross, where Jesus object of Father's intense hatred and wrath against sin. Hebrews 2:17; Romans 3:23-25
 - Propitiation and atonement at epicenter of God's love.
 - Propitiation: a sacrifice that turns away wrath of God and thereby makes God favorable toward us.

Nahum help understand necessity of cross: there is an end to God's patience toward sin, but God provide way escape His wrath. Nahum 1:7-8, 15, 1 John 4:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:10

- At cross God's wrath, justice, mercy, and love came together.
 - No one who turns to God in faith ever experience His wrath.
 - Christian no wrath, but discipline manifestation of His love.

Nahum provide comfort that in proper time everything judged righteously.

- Name Nahum means Comforted. Shortened of *Nehemiah*, meaning "the comfort of Yahweh."
 - Temporary mercy does not compromise ultimate sense of justice for all in end.

Nahum gives hope that LORD good, a refuge in times of trouble, injustice.

- Because of cross, grace, and mercy Christian NEVER receive wrath of God.

Outline of Nahum

- Chapter 1:1-1:7 Principles of God's judgment
- Chapter 1:8-1:15 God's judgment against Nineveh
- Chapter 2 The destruction of Nineveh
- Chapter 3 Nineveh's total destruction is irreversible

"He who does not believe that God will punish sin will not believe that He will pardon it through the blood of His Son."

Charles Spurgeon