

Prophet #6 **Nahum**: Israel's God is the Judge of all nations and He will utterly destroy Nineveh for its vile cruelty and deception against its neighbors, especially His covenant people, Israel.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPHETS—NAHUM #3**

**W**here is your safe space? To whom do you run when overwhelmed? While God is the ultimate Protector, He is also full of wrath for all those who oppose Him. This two-edged sword is what C.S. Lewis was getting at when he described Aslan:

“Aslan is a lion—the Lion, the great Lion.”

“Ooh” said Susan. “I’d thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion” ...

“Safe?” said Mr Beaver ... “Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.” (*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*)

We want God to protect us, but we are quite uncomfortable with talk of His wrath. Nahum helps us to see God as He truly is. He is both full of wrath and a “stronghold in the day of trouble.” He blots out His enemies and redeems traitors into beloved sons.

*“God is our refuge and strength  
a very present help in trouble  
Therefore we will not fear  
though the earth gives way  
though the mountains be moved  
into the heart of the sea  
though its waters roar and foam  
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

Psalm 46:1-

### **DO YOU WANT THE GOOD NEWS OR THE BAD NEWS FIRST?**

In this oracle of destruction and wrath we are also reminded of God’s compassion and longsuffering patience. While He is wrathful, it is not because He flies off the handle in a rage. No His white hot anger is fully justified and suspended for decades or centuries before it is unleashed in just recompense. And when it is unleashed it is utterly devastating. Indeed there is no recovery from His wrath. There will be no one to save from His fury.

### **HE IS BOTH UNSTOPPABLE FOE AND IMPENETRABLE REFUGE (1:6-11).**

No one can withstand God’s wrath. No one can capture those under His protection. These two are linked in the perfectly righteous character of God.

<sup>6</sup> Who can stand before his indignation?

Who can endure the heat of his anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;

he knows those who take refuge in him.

<sup>8</sup> But with an overflowing flood

he will make a complete end of the adversaries,  
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

<sup>9</sup> What do you plot against the Lord?

He will make a complete end;  
trouble will not rise up a second time.

<sup>10</sup> For they are like entangled thorns,

like drunkards as they drink;  
they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

<sup>11</sup> From you came one who plotted evil against the Lord, a worthless counselor.

*“For great is the wrath of the LORD  
that is poured out on us, because of  
our fathers have not kept the word of  
the LORD, to do according to all that  
is written in this book.”*

*Second Chronicles 34:21b*

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**HE UTTERLY DEVASTATES EVIL AND FAITHFULLY REWARDS GOOD (1:12-15).**

The two sides of God's justice make Him both the worst possible adversary to those who do evil and the best possible refuge for those facing evil's effects. God speaks to His coming judgment of Ninevah as "breaking his yoke and bursting his bonds apart." At the time of Nahum's prophesy this seems impossible. God acknowledges this since Ninevah is currently at "full strength" as the strongest nation/capital of the time. As much as everyone else longed to see the bullying Assyrian Empire fall, it was unthinkable at that time. Yet God will accomplish it.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> And now I will break **his** yoke from off **you**  
and will burst your bonds apart.”

<sup>14</sup> 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.”

<sup>15</sup> **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.

Death likewise seems unconquerable. Even with all our medical advances, death still breathes down our necks. No one can escape it. Science fiction and fairy tales imagine life without death, but they are not real. Everyone dies. So what is the use of religious feasts and vows. What use can such things have in the face of all the chaos, destruction, and death?!

Behold! Look! Over the mountains comes one bringing good news. From a distant land comes one publishing peace. Given all the devastation you have gone through, you can hardly dare hope that such things would be true, but God has not forgotten us. He will indeed make a grave for those idolatrous villains who have trampled God's people and defiled Christ's holy Bride. God will afflict us no more, so keep your feasts and fulfill your vows. Continue in faithful obedience because our King is coming. He has not forsaken us. For indeed He could not.