

NAHUM

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Nahum chapter 1 as we continue our study through the Word of God. This little three-chapter book is probably not read much because many don't see it as important, they don't think it applies to them. But let me say this. All of God's Word is for us to learn from, to grow from, to apply to our lives in one way or another! And that is true of this book as well, the book of Nahum!

Now the focus of this book is the judgment of God upon Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire. Now that should cause our ears to perk up and we should listen because Nineveh should be familiar to us. We read about Nineveh in the book of Jonah a few weeks back. Now the time-frame from Jonah to Nahum is about 100 years and keep in mind that Jonah went to Nineveh to warn the people of Nineveh of the coming judgment of God upon them.

Keep in mind that the Ninevites were very wicked, very cruel and most people would rejoice in their destruction, even this prophet of God, Jonah. Thus, he reluctantly went there and basically told them, *"Forty days and you guys are toast!"* No love, no compassion, he wanted them destroyed!

Now Jonah was very nervous, not for his life but because he knew of the grace and mercy of God and even though God said He would destroy them, if they repented, He may not! And that is exactly what we see happen!

The people of Nineveh, from the King to the common person repented before God, and God withheld His judgment from coming upon them. But here we are, some 100 years later and tragically the people of Nineveh returned to their wicked ways and had reached the point of no return, judgment was coming!

R. K. Harrison put it like this in regards to the judgment of God upon the Ninevites. He wrote,

In this small prophecy of doom the author demonstrated in vigorous and memorable language that the God of the nation whom the Assyrians had despised was in fact the artificer [a skilled craftsman or inventor] and controller of all human destiny. To His justice even the greatest world power must submit in humility and shame.

- R. K. Harrison, Introduction to the Old Testament, p. 930

Now the dating of this book, according to some, occurred after the fall of Thebes in upper Egypt, by the Assyrians in 663 B. C. and before the destruction of Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire which took place in 612 B. C. by a confederacy of Medes and Babylonians. That would place his ministry during the time of Manasseh, a wicked King in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Others push the date back to 720 B. C. during the reign of Hezekiah. But I also don't believe the date is as important as is the message, and we will see that this evening.

Also, his name, "**Nahum**" means "**comforter**" and of course he was not speaking words of comfort to Nineveh, but to the Southern Kingdom of Judah who would rejoice over the destruction of this wicked nation.

With that said let's begin reading in Nahum chapter 1 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

NAHUM

VERSE 1

1. This burden or judgment is against Nineveh, the capitol of the Assyrian Empire! This was something heavy and something that was or needed to be proclaimed, this message of judgment. That is what Clarke said regarding this word, “**Burden.**” He wrote, “*Massa* not only signifies a *burden*, but also a thing *lifted up, pronounced, or proclaimed*; also a *message*. It is used by the prophets to signify the *revelation* which they have received from God to deliver to any particular people.”

And this judgment came upon this nation at the height of its power, its wealth. And that just makes sense. A people and a nation who once had turned to God can get comfortable where they are at and gradually move away from Him as wealth, prosperity, power come into their lives, and that is exactly what we see here.

Now when judgment did come, this nation was so completely wiped out, so completely destroyed that archeologists thought it was only a myth, they did not believe Nineveh existed because they could not find any evidence of their existence.

That was until the 19th century when this ancient cities ruins were discovered and once again the Bible was correct in what it said.

2. Now we don't know a lot about this prophet named Nahum but we do know that he was an Elkoshite. I know, that does not help much. You see, there are several ideas of where this is speaking of. Some say in the area of Assyria, north of Nineveh. Others say in Judah. But it may very well be a small village along the Sea of Galilee.

You see, the city of Capernaum means *“the house of Nahum.”* Again, it is speculation, we are not sure where he lived, but what we are sure is what he spoke, for what Nahum said came to pass – the judgment of Nineveh!

VERSES 2-8

1. Nahum starts out speaking of the judgment of God and the character of God. We need to understand that God does not just fly off the handle and strike out at us. In fact, God is far more patient than man.

And yes, there is a time and place where He does display His anger but it doesn't come quickly or capriciously. I like the way that Spurgeon put it. He wrote, “God’s sword of justice is in its scabbard: not rusted in it - it can be easily withdrawn - but held there by that hand that presses it back into its sheath, crying, ‘Sleep, O sword, sleep; for I will have mercy upon sinners, and will forgive their transgressions.’”

Now I do understand that it speaks of God and says that **“God is jealous”** and when we think of jealousy it is not a pretty picture. We want what someone else has, we are envious of them and because of that it can cause us to react in anger and many times we want revenge! But that is not the picture of God that is being painted for us.

You see, the word **“jealous”** here means or speaks of “exacting exclusive devotion.” In that respect, God is jealous, and so are you if you think about it. How many of you would be happy to share your spouse with another? Hopefully none of you! And our creator God desires no less of us; He wants our devotion, for we were created for His good pleasure.

It is as Revelation 4:11 says, and this is from the King James Version of the Bible,
“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

2. We also need to understand that the Assyrians were a brutal people. They would take their captives and they would mutilate them. They would skin their captives alive. They would cut off their hands, their feet, their noses, their tongues. They would put hooks in their jaws to lead them around. They would pile up skulls against the city walls to break the spirit of those they captured, and-so-on.

And they did no less to the Northern Kingdom of Israel when they came in and took them captive in 722 B. C. Besides that, they would divide the captives and mix them with other people in other areas they captured so they would demoralize them and decrease the chance of rebellion.

And God is telling these people that He is going to do to them what they have done to others. What they have sown they will reap! God is only giving to them what they deserve, not any more than they deserve!

3. Now I love this aspect of God when it relates to me, that He is slow to anger. I am not as happy when He is slow to anger towards my enemies! How thankful we should be that our God is slow to anger and not like us! That He is gracious and merciful even in our nation that has turned its back against God! It doesn't mean judgment is not coming, but God is longsuffering and one day judgment will come upon this nation and I think we are getting very close!

Now sometimes we lose sight of the fact that the wicked will not get away with anything. Even the wicked feel they can do what they want and the reason they do is simple, God is slow to anger, He is patient, He is longsuffering. Why? Because He love's us and gives us many chances to turn from our wicked ways and live! God will not acquit the wicked, they will get what they deserve, for God is still in control, and He is always in control.

And listen again to this important fact. We are told that the Lord “**. . . will not at all acquit the wicked. . .**” Nahum 1:3a. The punishment for sin has to be paid for and if you do not receive the atonement for your sins that is in Christ, then you will pay for your sins in Hell for eternity! For those who have come to Christ, Jesus bore the punishment for our sins and thus, we do not have to suffer that punishment. It is as Spurgeon wrote, “Never once has he pardoned an unpunished sin; not in all the years of the Most High, not in all the days of his right hand, has he once blotted out sin without punishment.” You see, the Lord “**. . . will not at all acquit the wicked. . .**”

4. Now when you read on in the last half of verse 3 through verse 5 you see God's judgment poured out. And when His judgment comes there is nothing you will be able to do about it. You can't stop it! It is like a storm that continues on until it passes by, you can't stop it from coming. And the picture again is that Almighty God is in total control!

And think about it. Who can stand before a holy God as verse 6 asks that question? No one can stand before Him apart from those who are in Christ. In Hebrews 10:31 we are told, “**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**”

Why is that? Because Hebrews 12:29 tells us, “**For our God is a consuming fire.**” You see, we can’t stand before a holy and righteous God in our own righteousness, for they are like filthy rags before Him.

The only way we can stand before God is as Paul tells us in II Corinthians 5:21, “**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**” For the people of Nineveh and all those who refuse to come to Christ, they will see His wrath, His judgment; they will perish in their sins!

5. Now in contrast from verse 6 and the judgment of God, we see in verse 7 that God is good, He is a strong tower, a place of refuge for all who trust in Him and that of course is the key. And what a comfort that is to me, to know that, “**. . . He knows those who trust in Him.**” Nahum 1:7.

6. Listen again to what we read in verse 8 as it speaks of the destruction of Nineveh. We are told, “**But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.**”

Make no mistake about it, Nineveh was a powerful, a strong, fortified city. The whole city was 10 miles wide and 30 miles long. A three days journey through the city as Jonah tells us.

And the central part of the city was 1½ miles wide by 3 miles long. They had walls around the city with the inner wall being large enough to have 4 chariots side-by-side traveling on the top of it.

Now this confederacy of Mede's and Babylonian's came against Nineveh for three years without much success in breaking through the walls of the city. That was until a flood came and washed part of the wall away, allowing the enemies to come in and destroy them, just as God said.

And I think that Baker sums up what is going on here for us very nicely. He wrote, "The author is not expressing some personal feeling of vindication over some hurt by the oppressor, nor even a nationalistic chauvinism that pagan nations must be punished. Rather, Yahweh is applying his universal standard against evil, no matter who is responsible."

VERSES 9-11

1. The Assyrians did have some success against the Mede's and the Babylonian's to the point where they returned within their walls, celebrating, getting drunk and yet God says they will be devoured, and they were! They, in a sense, were mocking God and in the end, they lost.

As I said before, their destruction was so complete that Archeologists doubted the existence of Nineveh until the 19th century when its ruins were finally discovered.

2. Now in verse 11 we are told of this "**wicked counselor**" who is plotting evil against the Lord. Who is this speaking of? This wicked counselor could be the Rabshakeh who Sennacherib sent in to discourage the people of Judah living within the walls of the city of Jerusalem.

In II Kings 18:28-35 we read of this. It says, **“Then the Rabshakeh stood and called out with a loud voice in Hebrew, and spoke, saying, ‘Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king: “Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the LORD, saying, ‘The LORD will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.’” Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: “Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern; until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive groves and honey, that you may live and not die. But do not listen to Hezekiah, lest he persuade you, saying, ‘The LORD will deliver us.’ Has any of the gods of the nations at all delivered its land from the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim and Hena and Ivah? Indeed, have they delivered Samaria from my hand? Who among all the gods of the lands have delivered their countries from my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem from my hand?’””**

He spoke blasphemy against the true and living God, trying to get the people of God to turn against their King and their God! In the end, 185,000 Assyrians were destroyed by the Angel of the Lord in one night and God spared His people in the Southern Kingdom of Judah! You can’t fight against God and win!

VERSES 12-13

1. As powerless, as weak as the Southern Kingdom of Judah looked to the Assyrians, God fought for them and gave them this victory as I have said. I believe this is speaking of this Assyrian threat against the Southern Kingdom of Judah and how God stepped in and destroyed the enemy, sending an angel of the Lord who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in just one night!

VERSE 14

1. God said that He was going to wipe them out, make them disappear and He did exactly that. Who would have thought during their day that this would not even be possible? It was a powerful nation and yet God says you will lose that title!

And God did wipe them out just as He said He would do! If God says something, you don't have to worry if He will do it or not. It is as Numbers 23:19 says, **“God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”**

VERSE 15

1. I love how God brings comfort to His people as He is speaking to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. You see, that good news will come to them, the Assyrians will be destroyed, they will not bother you any longer!

Thus, don't give up; don't walk away from the Lord even though things are difficult. Stay close to Him, continue serving Him and you will not be disappointed because the wicked will be judged and the righteous will enter into eternity with Him.

It is as Isaiah says and it is similar to what Nahum is saying, the only difference is that Isaiah is speaking of the coming of the Lord and Nahum the destruction of God's enemies. In Isaiah 40:9-11 we are told, **“O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’ Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”**

Make no mistake about it; our hope is in the Lord and His return!

2. Now as we move into chapter 2 we will see the battle and the fall of Nineveh.

NAHUM 2

VERSES 1-2

1. Again, this is referring to the Medes and the Babylonian armies that came against Assyria and destroyed them in 612 B. C. under the leadership of Cyaxares and Nabopolassar the King of Babylon.

And notice what the Lord instructs them to do, “Sound the alarm, prepare for battle, the enemy has broken through!” That is the thought here. And the reason God is bringing them down is because of what they did to His people. The Assyrians will be destroyed, and God’s people will be raised up, both the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah! But the Assyrians will be completely destroyed. You don’t know any Assyrians today do you!

VERSES 3-7

1. Here we see the utter confusion as the enemy breaks through the wall of the city, or should I say as the rivers overflowed and took out a large portion of the wall of the city, opening up a portion so the enemy could come in. This idea of the rivers opening up is interesting to me because this is what did take place as the Assyrians were defeated.

In regards to these rivers coming down upon the Assyrians like a flood, one commentator wrote,

As Nineveh’s walls crumbled from the force of the flooded Euphrates, the King of Assyria hid in his palace. He must have thought he would surely be safe there. After all, it was six hundred feet long, six hundred thirty feet wide, had eighty rooms, and was surrounded by gold and silver lions. His private armory, which held his shields and spears, horses and chariots, covered eighteen acres. But it eventually became evident that neither his palace nor his armory could save him. Realizing this, he committed suicide by lighting himself on fire, burning down his palace in the process.

[And in verse 7 where it speaks of **“She shall be lead away captive . . .”** it is speaking of the queen of Assyria, thus] With no historical mention of Huzzab, Queen of Nineveh, being burned in the fire that claimed her husband’s life, it is assumed that she escaped and was carried away captive with the rest of her people.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson’s Application Commentary, Old Testament Vol. 2, p. 851

2. I think there is an interesting application to these flood waters in our own life. Think about the flood waters being all that this world has for us and is bombarding us with, trying to erode away our defenses. All the immorality that is out there is flooding in.

We can stand strong as long as we are upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, but once we take our feet off the Rock, we then allow the enemy to come in like a flood and breach our walls. Not only are the walls breached but we end up finding much confusion and turmoil in our lives.

The way to prevent that is to stay away from his river of sin that will tear down your walls of protection that God has established. Draw close to God, let Him be your strong tower, your place of refuge, the Rock that will bring stability to your life and the enemy will not be able to break through!

VERSES 8-12

1. Here we see Nahum speak of the army of Nineveh being like a pool of water. Maybe at one time it was strong, it was powerful but now that water is draining away and it is good for nothing. They will not be able to defend the city, not at all. The King is dead, there is mass confusion and captivity has come upon them!

Not only that but the city itself was surrounded by canals that were built to give them a supply of water but in the end it is what helped bring them down. And as the enemy came in, in this mass confusion, people were fleeing for their lives; they no longer are standing and fighting against the enemy. And it would seem even the army had its defectors; they were exiting stage left you might say and they refused to return to duty!

2. Isn't it interesting that as you gain wealth, as you gain power the arrogance that comes into a person's life! The Assyrians amassed great wealth as they invaded various lands and nations. They were rich beyond measure and I'm sure they thought that would never end. With all this spoil they had, it would last several lifetimes, or so they thought. In the end they were completely wiped out, all the wealth, all the power gone!

And listen to the point that James Montgomery Boice makes regarding this assault upon the Assyrians. He wrote, 'An impressive confirmation of this prophecy is that nothing of all this gold and silver has been discovered in the ruins of Nineveh by archaeologists. Nineveh was indeed stripped bare.'

And did you notice how quickly all her treasures were taken away, leaving her empty, and in a state of shock. There is a lesson here for us. You see, where is your treasure? What are you holding onto? If it is anything but the Lord, understand this, it can be taken away very quickly, but the Lord will always be there. Even your health, something that you think you have control of, can be taken away in just one moment.

It is as Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" I pray that your treasure is the Lord!

3. As you look at verses 11 and 12 you see that Nahum speaks of the Assyrians being like lions and that was a symbol that they did use for this nation. And the idea here is that all the power of the Assyrian Empire would be gone. They at one time slaughtered, raped, mutilated their captives, but now they are brought down to nothing. Nabopolassar, the King of Babylon and the father of Nebuchadnezzar, along with Cyaxeres the Mede were the leaders in taking Nineveh and the Assyrians down.

VERSE 13

1. What a horrible thing to hear, “**Behold, I am against you,’ says the LORD of hosts . . .**” That is where the Assyrians were at and really, that is where people are who are rejecting Jesus as their Lord and Savior, God is against them but He is also there with arms of forgiveness but that forgiveness is only found in Jesus Christ.

Remember what Paul said in Romans 8:31, “**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?**” The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, “**What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?] [Ps 118:6.]**”

If that is true, and it is, then the opposite is true as well. If God is against you then there is no way you will be able to stand and the Assyrians found that out! They did not learn the lesson from the time of Jonah and they turned from God and God turned from them.

And think about it, when was the last time you ran into an Assyrian? God brought them down and they are heard of no more!

2. Also, we read in the last part of this verse, “**... and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more.**” The idea here is that Nineveh was powerful and other nations looked up to them. When they spoke people listened. From nation to nation they were looked up to and now that day has come to an end as the judgment of God has come upon them! They are not heard any more because they are not around any longer!

NAHUM 3

VERSES 1-4

1. Make no mistake about it, the Assyrians were a brutal people, they were very wicked. In fact, as word spread of the things they were doing, all their atrocities, when a city was being attacked by the Assyrians, many times they would just commit suicide rather than being taken captive by the Assyrians and being brutalized by them! That speaks volumes of how wicked and unmerciful they were towards their captives. It reminds me of the atrocities we are seeing in the Islamic faith, not much different.

And it is not that they just did these abominations but then they boasted about them and placed them on monuments for people to see. Some of these monuments are in museums today. Listen to what James Montgomery Boice said were some of the interesting boasts they made in doing these atrocities. They are,

- “I cut off their heads and formed them into pillars”
- “Bubo, son of Buba, I flayed in the city of Arbela and I spread his skin upon the city wall”
- “I flayed all the chief men who had revolted, and I covered the pillar with their skins”

- “Many within the border of my own land I flayed, and spread their skins upon the walls”
- “I cut off the limbs of the officers, the royal officers who had rebelled”
- “3,000 captives I burned with fire”
- “Their corpses I formed into pillars
- “From some I cut off their hands and their fingers, and from other I cut off their noses, their ears, and their fingers, of many I put out their eyes”
- “I made one pillar of the living, and another of heads, I bound their heads to posts round about the city”

- James Montgomery Boice

Now because of what they have done they were going to have the same done unto them.

What you sow you will reap! Their enemies will come in and wipe them out, they will be slaughtered!

And it was not just that they were doing these things but they were teaching others to follow in their footsteps. We see the harlotries, the sorceries that they were doing and showing others how to do them.

And make no mistake about it, they had no one to blame but themselves. You see, they were shown the truth, they had seen the light of God as the prophet Jonah warned them and they repented of their sin. But now they have returned to their old practices, turned away from the Lord, they were spiritually unfaithful to the true and living God, and they worshiped false god's, they were into sorcery.

As one writer put it, “Thousands of tablets uncovered in the Mesopotamian valley show abysmal superstition. Hundreds of sorcery incantations have been brought to light.” (Maier, cited in Boice)

VERSES 5-7

1. Nations that see themselves as strong, as invincible will end up destroying themselves and we have seen that throughout history. Here with the Assyrians, this once strong, powerful nation will be brought down. As people, as nations look at the destruction, the devastation that took place, and they will be amazed, shocked how the mighty have fallen!

And make no mistake about it, this is not some exaggeration, this was literally fulfilled. The ancient Greek historian Diodorus Siculus wrote of the destruction of Nineveh and said, “So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing stream, mingled with their blood, changed its color for a considerable distance . . . They plundered the spoil of the city, a quantity beyond counting.” (James Montgomery Boice)

Also, Adam Clarke writes the following and keep in mind that he was writing before the discovery of the ruins in Nineveh in 1840 and Clarke is quoting an author commenting on the disappearance of the city of Nineveh, “What probability was there that the capital city of a great kingdom, a city which was *sixty* miles in compass, a city which contained so many *thousand* inhabitants, a city which had walls a *hundred* feet high . . . And yet so totally was it destroyed that the place is hardly known where it was situated . . . Great as it was formerly, so little of it is remaining, that authors are not agreed even about its situation.”

2. That is an important lesson for all of us to learn. The bigger you are the harder you will fall and I am not talking about size, but pride! You see, we all stand by the grace of God. He is the one who enables us to do the things we do. All we are is the instruments that God is using to produce a melody to touch others by. And there are times that we need to be fine-tuned, and God will do that. But to think of ourselves as special, as more important than others, is just foolishness and you are tempting God to bring you down!

3. Now as you look at verse 7 we see that there is no one mourning over the destruction of Nineveh, why is that? Because they were so cruel. Yes, people listened to them, obeyed them when they were in power because they had no choice, but now that they are gone they are rejoicing!

We saw that with the fall of Saddam Hussein and how the people of Iraq rejoiced, tore down his statue because he was such a brutal dictator and the people did what he said when he was around, but once they put him to death, they did not want any remembrance of him remaining!

For the Assyrians, you couldn't pay someone to mourn over what took place, for the people, the nations were happy to see them brought down to the ground.

VERSES 8-11

1. Keep in mind that “*No Amon*” was the Hebrew name for the Egyptian city of Thebes, the great capital of upper Egypt. It is the Assyrians that destroyed Thebes in 663 B. C. and the people were taken into captivity! And they too thought of themselves as safe, secure, that no one could destroy them and they were wrong just as the people of Nineveh were wrong.

And the idea here is this, “*Remember what you did to No Amon? Well, guess what, that is what is coming upon you Assyrians!*”

2. Listen to what J. Vernon McGee had to say regarding this event. He wrote,

Dr. Charles Feinberg's books on the minor prophets are very excellent - I know of none better. I would like to quote from his book, *Jonah, Micah and Nahum* (p. 147), in which he describes the city of No-Amon:

It was the capital city of the Pharaohs of the Eighteenth to the Twentieth Dynasties, and boasted such architecture as the Greeks and Romans admired. The Greeks called it Diospolis, because the Egyptian counterpart of Jupiter was worshipped there. It was located on both banks of the river Nile. On the eastern bank were the famous temples at Karnak and Luxor. Homer, the first Greek poet, spoke of it as having 100 gates. Its ruins cover an area of some 27 miles. Amon, the chief god of the Egyptians, was shown on Egyptian relics as a figure with a human body and a ram's head. The judgment of this godless and idolatrous city was foretold by Jeremiah (46:25) and Ezekiel (30:14-16). No-Amon was situated favorably among the canals of the Nile with the Nile itself as a protection. The Nile appears as a sea when it overflows its banks annually. Nineveh can read her fate in that of No-Amon, for she is no better than the mighty Egyptian capital.

God is saying to Nineveh that the city of Thebes should have been an example to the Assyrian Empire. The Assyrians were the ones who had destroyed Thebes, a great city which had seemed impregnable. It seemed that no one could take it, but the Assyrians did take it and destroy it. This should have been an example to the Assyrians. God had judged Thebes, and He is here justifying the fact that He will also judge Nineveh. The government of God moves in the governments of men in this world today.

- J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible* Vol. III, pp. 831-832

3. Yes God deals with nations as we see here in the book of Nahum. And let's apply this to the nation we are living in. Think of it like this, ***“You also, like the Ninevites, think that you will get away with your sinful ways, but you will not escape. Look at what has transpired throughout history and you will see this to be true.”*** It is a wakeup call for America!

Listen to this article called, “I Believe God Could Bring Judgment Upon America.” We are told,

“I believe God could bring judgment upon America,” said Franklin Graham in the exclusive interview with Fox host Todd Starnes. Graham declared Friday he was sad for our country.

“I do believe that God’s judgment will come on this nation. When we read the scripture, we see how God judged Israel, time and time again, when they would turn their back on Him, and they would begin to worship other gods, foreign gods, God would bring his judgment on Israel. And I believe God could bring judgment on America.” . . .

Graham told Starnes that in the aftermath of what he called the “ruling on homosexual marriage,” those who support so-called “traditional marriage” would become targets of hate.

“You better be ready and you better be prepared because it’s coming,” Graham told Starnes just moments after the court handed down its ruling. “There will be persecution of Christians for our stand.”

Ultimately, Graham said the decision by the Supreme Court was one that legalized a transgression against God.

“I’m disappointed because the government is recognizing sin,” he said. “This court is endorsing sin. That’s what homosexuality is – a sin against god.”

In reporting on Graham's stance, Starnes wrote in his online blog for Fox Nation:

“And if you think the cultural purging of the Southern States has been breathtaking, wait until you see what LGBT activists are about to unleash on American Christians.

“Churches and faith-based business should prepare for lawsuits and government investigations. Pastors who refuse to perform gay marriages and preach from the Bible should prepare for hate crime charges. All dissent will be silenced by the government and the activists.

“But I believe that an overwhelming number of Christians will defy the law . . . Given the choice of obeying God or the government, I believe Christians will obey God - even if there is hell to pay.”

- <http://www.associate.com/politics/marriage-equality/2015/06/27/franklin-graham-i-believe-god-could-bring-judgment-upon-america>

It is not just the homosexual issue that goes against God's Word. We have murdered over 55 million children in the womb. We have drug abuse. Sexual promiscuity. We have violence. But these are all just the symptoms of an even bigger problem and that is the fact that we have turned from God and thus, God has given us over to these things. If you doubt it, then listen carefully what Paul said in Romans chapter 1 because we are seeing it come to pass before our eyes.

In Romans chapter 1, beginning in verse 18 we are told, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of

God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:18-32.

Did you see that? Because they rejected God, the One they knew of but they closed their heart to Him, **“God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves . . . God gave them up to vile passions . . . God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”**

God gave them over to all this immorality because they turned from Him and you may not see that as right but keep in mind that these things that are being seen in their lives comes from their hearts which are evil. They are just doing what they want. Instead of being controlled by the Spirit of God they are controlled by their flesh and the results we are seeing grow in intensity in this nation.

Thus, **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness . . .”** It is a wake-up call for America and for individuals!

VERSES 12-15

1. Nahum is speaking of Nineveh as a ripe fig tree that when it is shaken all the fruit will fall to the ground. Thus, this great nation of Assyria will fall quickly, just as ripe figs fall from the fig trees. They will be consumed by their enemies and they will not be able to hide or find shelter from this invasion.

2. It is interesting to note that verse 13 says, “**... Fire shall devour the bars of your gates**” and that is exactly what archaeologists have documented regarding Nineveh, that it was burned.

Boice makes this point, “The excavators of Nineveh have remarked on the large deposits of ash, which are evidence of a gigantic conflagration [fire, blaze].”

3. And as we read on in verses 14 and 15 it seems like Nahum is mocking the people of Nineveh. The idea here is to try and build up your walls, fortify your city, get a fresh water supply for the people, but as much as you try your troops will be as weak as women. And all will lose heart as the walls are opened up and there is no way to rebuild them and stop the enemy from coming in. You can try all you want but you will not succeed in stopping the judgment of God and how true that is!

VERSES 16-19

1. In the cool of the evening the locusts settled on the walls, but when the warmth of the sun comes out, they fly away. And the leaders in Assyria are likened to these locusts, in that when things are cool, they are around. But as soon as the battle heats up, they scattered, they are running for their lives!

We see that even today in the church. There are people and pastors and leaders in the church that do the same. As long as things are cool, they are around. But once the battle heats up, they are gone. How sad. And for a pastor who does that, he is not a shepherd, but a hireling!

We need to understand that we are in battle, and things will heat up from time to time, so what are you going to do? God is not the author of confusion, but the Assyrians, as they fled, were in a state of mass confusion, and we are seeing this in the church today. Which, to me, is very sad!

2. The nations rejoiced over the destruction of the Assyrians, no one mourned over them as we have seen. And the tragedy is there was no longer a cure for them, no healing, they were going to die.

There does come a place in everyone's life, and only God knows where that is at, where they pass the point of no return and there is no healing for them, no salvation any longer. For some it is right up to the time they die, and for others it is sooner.

The point being, don't take the chance. The people of Nineveh saw the light but now rejected it and it was too late for them. Don't make the same mistake. Remember what Peter said in Acts 4:11-12, "**This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

There is no other salvation except through Christ! Come to the light as He is in the light and you will be saved! But for the wicked, it may seem like they are getting away with murder, but they are not! The wicked will get away with nothing. Judgement will come upon them. May we not forget that.