

Series: Jealous Judge's Justice

Title: Nahum 3 God is Just

Purpose: Nahum Prophecies Judgment on Nineveh

Introduction:

Nahum means comfort.

About God's judgment & destruction of Assyrian empire,

Written to Judah, the southern tribe, To comfort them.

News of their future destruction brought Judah joy.

This prophecy will not be fulfilled for another 40 years.

3 Things People Forget about God

1. God is a Powerful God:

He can do anything He wills to do.

2. God is a Predictable God:

He will act according to His Integrity of Character

3. God is a Personal God:

He wants a Living relationship.

He can respond to our choices.

I. Their Ruthless Bloodshed: (Vs 1-3)

A. The Sins of Assyria

1. Guilty of *bloody murders* (innocent lives destroyed).
2. Full of *lies & Deceitful Diplomacy*
3. Driven by *Covetousness*

B. The Cruelty of Assyria

1. Slaughtered without mercy; regardless of age or sex.
2. Piled corpses like lumber to terrify nations.
3. Exploited the weak for selfish and political gain.

C. The Judgment of God

1. Their own people slain; streets filled with corpses.
2. Wealth gained through Lies & Violence plundered
3. Their Soldiers stripped of courage;
4. Their fortifications will fail.
5. Branded forever as the "*bloody city*."

E. The Justice of God: Biblical Principles

1. God remembers the shedding of innocent blood.
2. Depraved rulers and nations will answer to Him.
3. No sin is forgotten; judgment always comes in God's time.

F. (vs 2) The Chaotic sound of horsemen going into battle.

1. The noise (crack) of a whip,
2. The rattling of chariot wheels,
3. The prancing of horses,
4. The sound of jumping or high-bouncing chariots (Jer 47:3).

G. (Vs 3) The Fierceness of Judgment: The Swiftiness of Judgment

1. *Imagery:* The horseman rides hard and fast, symbolizing the swiftiness of God's wrath.
2. The flashing sword and glittering spear reveal the sharpness and inevitability of His judgment.
3. *Application:* Do not mistake God's patience for weakness. When judgment comes, it will be swift and decisive. We must live in readiness, walking in obedience to His Word.

H. The Fullness of Devastation: The Severity of Judgment

1. *Imagery:* A never-ending line of the slain shows how complete the overthrow will be.
2. Death covers the battlefield, leaving no escape or hiding place.
3. *Application:* The world promises security in wealth, power, and influence, but all these will crumble when God's hand is against them.

I. The Futility of Resistance: The Surety of Judgment

1. *Imagery:* Soldiers tripping over their own dead comrades shows the hopelessness of resisting God's will.
2. The mighty capital, once secure, collapses under the assault of God's appointed instruments of His Judgment.
3. *Application:* No Human armies, or strategies can stand against the Lord.

II. Their Idolatry: (Vs 4-7)

A. The Snare of Idolatry (Vs 4)

1. *Cause:* Nineveh enticed others through idolatry, lust, & greed
2. *Truth:* Idolatry always leads to bondage:
3. *Application:* Guard your heart from modern idols (Ps. 115:8).
4. Ask: Is Christ my Master, or am I enslaved by something else?

B. The Corruption of False Gods

1. *Cause:* Assyria was shaped by the worship of Ishtar:
2. *Truth:* People take on the character of the god they serve;
3. *Application:* Examine your life—are you reflecting the character of Christ or the spirit of the world? (2 Cor. 3:18).

C. The Shame of Sin's Exposure

- *Cause:* God promised to expose Nineveh's shame
- *Truth:* Hidden sin will be brought to light (Luke 12:2-3).
- *Application:* Don't wait for God to expose your sin (1 Jn 1:9).

D. The Ruin of Rebellion

- *Cause:* The wealthy, magnificent city became a heap of ruins
- *Truth:* No matter how strong or prosperous, any person or nation that rejects God will fall (Prov. 16:18).
- *Application:* Build your life not on wealth, pleasure, or power, but on Christ the solid rock (Matt. 7:24-27).
- What you build without God will not last.

1. God's Opposition Is Certain: (Vs 5)

Truth: No city, nation, or person can stand when God.

Application: If God is against us, who can be for us? (Rom. 8:31)

Seek to live in such a way that God is your ally, not your adversary

2. Sin's Shame Will Be Exposed:

Truth: God promised to uncover Nineveh's hidden shame

Application: God hates hidden sin (Num 32:23)

- What we try to conceal, God will reveal (Luke 12:2).
- True safety is in confessing sin (1 John 1:9).

3. Judgment Becomes a Warning to Others: (Vs 6-7)

Truth: Nineveh's disgrace would be a warning to other kingdoms

Application: Our lives are testimonies, of God's grace in forgiveness or of His justice in judgment.

III. Their Pride and Self-Confidence: (Vs 8-19)

1. False Security – “Art thou better than populous No...?”

2. Failed Strongholds – “...situate among the rivers...”

- **Illustration:** A sandcastle looks strong until the tide rises.
- **Application:** Our “walls” of wealth, education, technology apart from God, crumble. Only Christ is the Rock that cannot be moved.

3. Fallen Strength – Thebes had allies, yet destroyed (vv. 9–11)

- Thebes had armies and allies, but still fell before Assyria. (vs 9)
- Now God warns Nineveh: the same will happen to you. (Vs 10)

II. Fruitless Fortresses – The Futility of Self-Confidence (3:11–16)

A. Drunken Defense: (vs 11)

- **Observation:** Nineveh's pride would lead to confusion & fear.
- **Illustration:** A drunk soldier is defenseless against the enemy.
- **Application:** Self-reliance without God leads to ruin;
- **Illustration:** Powerful empires of history all lie in ruins.
- **Application:** No nation, or individual can stand against God. (James 4:6–7).

Closing Challenge:

- Where is your trust? In your size, your savings, your strength?
- Thebes fell. Nineveh fell. Every false security will fall.
- Only those who trust in the Lord stand secure forever (Ps. 46:1–2).

B. Fragile Fortifications: (Vs 12-14)

- **Observation:** What seems secure is easily shaken.
- **Illustration:** First-ripe figs fall effortlessly into the picker's mouth.
- **Application:** Build your life on Christ: (Isa 28:4; Re 6:12, 13).

C. Failed Forces (Vs 15-17)

- **Observation:** Leaders and defenders will abandon their posts.
- **Illustration:** Locusts flee at sunrise, leaving devastation behind.

- **Application:** Human schemes fail without God's guidance;

III. Final Fall – Full Force of God's Judgment (3:17–19)

A. Scattered Shepherds: (Vs 18)

- **Observation:** Leaders negligent, lead to mass destruction
- **Illustration:** Sleeping shepherd allows wolves to devour the flock.
- **Application:** Spiritual vigilance is critical; (Eze 15:16; Ps 76:6)

B. Grievous Wound: (Vs 19a)

1. Like a wounded body with no way to be healed (v. 19a).
 2. The word "bruit" in vs. 19 means "news, report"
- **Observation:** Nineveh's destruction is total, permanent, & public.
 - **Illustration:** Nations rejoice over the fall of tyrants.
 - **Application:** Persisting in sin & cruelty invites God's justice;

C. Continuous Cruelty: (Vs 19b)

- **Observation:** No sin escapes God's sight.
- **Illustration:** All unchecked cruelty eventually collapses.
- **Application:** God's justice is certain; mercy is available to the humble and repentant.

Conclusion & Challenge:

- **Check Your Confidence:** Are you trusting in wealth, power, allies, or personal ability?
- **Heed the Warning:** Thebes fell. Nineveh fell. False pride always falls.
- **Anchor in God:** Only those who trust in the Lord are truly secure (Psalm 46:1–2).

Takeaway: God is **Powerful**, **Predictable**, and **Personal**. Pride invites punishment; humility invites protection.

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