

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

2017 VISION: *Prioritizing God*

Current Book: The Book of Nahum – Message 1

Scriptures for Today: Nahum 1:1-8 – Introduction and Context of Nahum**Title of Today's Message: Light's Out – Behold the goodness and severity of God!****INTRODUCTION**

Today, we will introduce the book of Nahum. We will see that there is much power and prophecy in this small book that historically follows some 100 to 150 years after the book of Jonah. Apparently, after Nineveh had repented and believed God's words (Jonah 3), it was not long before they were back to their sinful ways and living in utter wickedness before Almighty God. The "*great Assyrian Empire*" had continued to conquer the world. And, they were fierce and a terror to their enemies. By 721 BC, the Northern Kingdom of Israel (____ tribes) had been overrun by Assyria and had been carried away captive (2 Kings 15:29; 17:3-6). At the time of Nahum, Assyria had most likely already begun to invade Judah. Historians record that some 46 cities and over 200,000 captives were taken from Judah. It was around this time when Sennacherib sent his wicked counsellor to Jerusalem (Isa 36-37; 2 Kings 19:35) to terrify God's people through words to surrender. The king of Judah would not give in to the Assyrian machine. Hezekiah prayed to God, Isaiah provided comforting words, and the Angel of the Lord took care of **185,000** of their valiant soldiers in ____ night! Assyria, and their capital city Nineveh had come to the end of their reign of terror. It was time for God to pronounce their ruin. God had been patient and slow to anger. He had given Nineveh ____, and they had now rejected it. God's wrath and judgment were going to be directed toward the Assyrian capital, and there would be ____ healing this time...

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Title Means: ____; Consoler

Note: He is called, "*prophet of wrath*", "*avenger of evil*"Chapters: **3**Verses: **47**

Words: ____

Author: **Nahum** – Note: 1:1Historical Time: **713 BC** (approx.)Theme: **The Day of the Lord!** Nahum writes of the destruction of Nineveh.

Keynote: What a contrast to the book of Jonah... Nineveh makes two fatal mistakes:

1 – They did not pass along God's truth to future generations (Prov 22:6; Deut 6).

2 – They did not "*make disciples*" (per se) like the Laodicean Church (2 Timothy 2:2)**THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS**

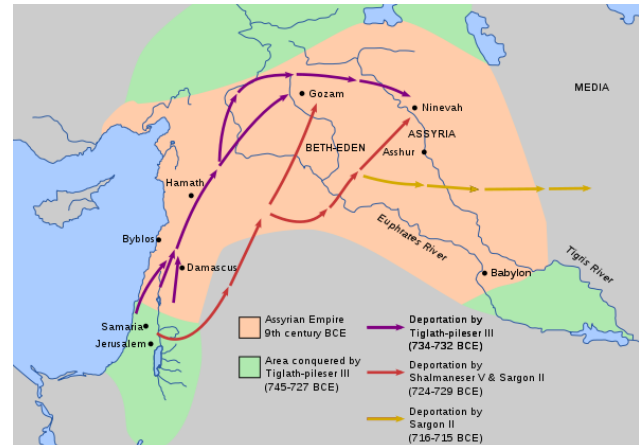
1. *Historical* Nahum prophesies the destruction of Nineveh at the peak of Assyrian power. It is a message of ____ for Israel.
2. *Doctrinal* God's promise to Israel of the final destruction of the "*great whore*" (that great city) at the peak of her ____ over the kings of the earth.
3. *Devotional* A message of hope that God will, one day, deal with sin and the evil world system. A reminder to us that we must invest our lives into the future generation. A reminder to properly "*make disciples*" and see them "____" for generations to come. Example – consider a mule (hard worker, but does not have the ability to reproduce.) We do not want mules! Christians are equated to oxen in the Bible.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapter 1 Nineveh's doom **DECLARED**.
 Chapter 2 Nineveh's doom **DESCRIBED**.
 Chapter 3 Nineveh's doom **DESERVED**.

Chapter 1 Nineveh is **JUDGED**.
 Chapter 2 Nineveh is **SENTENCED**.
 Chapter 3 Nineveh is **EXECUTED**.

MAPS



PREACHING NOTES

1. The _____ of Nineveh. The book of the **vision** of Nahum the Elkoshite.

- ✓ Jonah's message to Nineveh had been **repent**. Nahum's message to Nineveh was **judgment**.

John 1:9 "That was the true Light, which **LIGHTETH** every man that cometh into the world."
 John 3:19 "And this is the condemnation, that **LIGHT** is come into the world, and men loved **DARKNESS** rather than **LIGHT**, because their deeds were evil."
 John 15:22 "If I had not **COME** and **SPOKEN** unto them, they had not had sin: but **NOW** they have no cloak for their sin."
 Luke 11:35 "Take heed therefore that the **LIGHT** which is in thee be not **DARKNESS**."

NOTE God had been very gracious and merciful towards Nineveh. Their wickedness and sin had come up before God (Jonah 1:2), and yet He delighteth in mercy (Micah 7:18) and desired to spare their little ones who could not discern between their right hand and their left hand. He had given **LIGHT** to Nineveh. He had warned them of His impending judgment, and they had repented and believed His words. However, when God gives you **LIGHT** and then you **REJECT** the **LIGHT**, you are headed for peril and destruction. Nineveh was about to be destroyed. However, it was not because they were good and God was not. In fact, it was the opposite! Consider church history...and England...and now America...woes are coming!

- ✓ In Nahum, the _____ and **goodness of God** are declared in His decision to **destroy** Nineveh.

Nahum 1:2 "God is **JEALOUS**, and the **LORD** revengeth; the **LORD** revengeth, and is **FURIOUS**..."
 Nahum 1:3 "The **LORD** is **SLOW TO ANGER**...great in power...will not at all **ACQUIT** the wicked"
 Nahum 1:7 "The **LORD** is **GOOD**, a stronghold in the day of trouble..."

NOTE Nineveh had passed the place of no return because of their sin and rejection of God's **LIGHT**. It has been said that the average civilization in the history of the world has lasted 200 years. The "**progression**" typically follows these stages: from **bondage** to **spiritual faith** to **courage** to **liberty** to **abundance** to **selfishness** to **complacency** to **apathy** and then **BACK** to **bondage**! Think about England? Where do you think America is? How about you?