

Scriptures for Today: Nahum 3:8-19 – Nineveh’s doom is deserved; Nineveh is Executed

Title of Today’s Message: A Fatal Bruise – *The mighty man is not delivered by much strength!*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw a **GREAT** number of dead bodies as a result of God’s judgment on Nineveh for her great sin and wickedness against Him. There was more behind her story than just cruel and fierce and ruthless warriors. There was a multitude of slain and **NONE** end of their corpses **BECAUSE** of her **spiritual** wickedness! Today, we finish chapter 3 of Nahum with a **comparison** from God of Nineveh to populous **No** – a great city of _____ also called *Thebes*. This Egyptian city was the ancient capital of what is called the *Middle Empire*. It was celebrated for its hundred gates and its vast population. And, it was a city that at one time and during one great empire, it was believed could _____ fall. God had predicted her demise by His prophets *Isaiah*, *Jeremiah* and *Ezekiel*. Ironically, it was the Assyrians that God had used to bring her collapse! As a result of the siege against No, her **most honourable** men and _____ her **great men** were bound in chains and taken away. We will be reminded today that earthly kingdoms rise and fall, but our great God and Saviour stands _____ them all!

PREACHING NOTES

1. God asks Nineveh (and her king) if she is **better** than **mighty kingdoms** of the _____.

Verses 8-10

- ✓ **No** (No-Amon) was an ancient capital of **Egypt** in what is called the *Middle Empire*.

“Rampart” (W1828) That which fortifies and defends from assault. In fortification, an elevation, wall, or mound of earth around a place, capable of resisting enemy advances.

NOTE The ancient city of *No* (a.k.a. Thebes) was originally known as Waset – “*the scepter of the pharaohs.*” It was a cult center and the wealthiest city of ancient Egypt in its heyday. It was approx. 500 miles south of the Mediterranean and stood on both sides of the Nile River. In grandeur and extent, it can only be compared to Nineveh. Its necropolis was in the *Valley of the Kings* where kings and nobles were entombed in great splendor in the cliffs of the Nile. This is where King Tutankhamen and Ramses II’s sons were found. It was first taken by the Assyrians in the time of Sargon (Isa 20). Afterwards, it was “*delivered into the hand*” of Nebuchadnezzar and Assurbani-pal. The ruins of the city are still among the most notable in the valley of the Nile. One historian wrote, “*As I wandered day after day with ever-growing amazement amongst the relics of ancient magnificence, I felt that if all the ruins in Europe, classical, Celtic and medieval, were brought together into one centre, they would fall far short both in extent and grandeur of those of this single Egyptian city.*”

- ✓ God predicted the fall of **No** through His prophets – and Assyria and Babylon brought her down.

Jeremiah 46:25-26 “*The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, WITH THEIR GODS, and THEIR KINGS; even Pharaoh ... And I will deliver them into the hand of...Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon...*”

Ezekiel 30:15 “*I will pour my fury upon Sin, the strength of Egypt; and I will cut off the multitude of No.*”

Psalms 33:16, 17 “*There is no king saved by THE MULTITUDE OF AN HOST: a mighty man is not delivered by MUCH STRENGTH.*”

NOTE To God, the multitude of your army does not save you against Him. There is no man big or strong enough to deliver himself against the LORD of hosts. Great *No* lost her honourable men, and ALL her great men were bound in chains. Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall...

- ✓ In the holy Bible, **Egypt** is a type or PICTURE of *the world*; And, her strength = man’s wisdom.

Isaiah 30:1-3 *“Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that TAKE COUNSEL, but not of me; and that COVER WITH A COVERING, but not of my spirit, that they may ADD SIN TO SIN; That **walk** to go DOWN into EGYPT, and have not asked at my mouth; to **strengthen themselves** in the STRENGTH OF PHARAOH, and to TRUST in the **shadow** of EGYPT! Therefore shall the STRENGTH OF PHARAOH be your **shame**, and the TRUST in the **shadow** of EGYPT your **confusion**.”*

Isaiah 31:1-3 *“Woe to them that go DOWN to EGYPT for HELP; and STAY on **horses**, and TRUST in **chariots**, because they are MANY; and in **horsemen**, because they are very STRONG; but they look NOT unto the Holy One of Israel, NEITHER SEEK the LORD! ... Now the EGYPTIANS are **MEN**, and **NOT GOD**; and their HORSES **FLESH** and **NOT SPIRIT**”*

NOTE When God chose “*populous No*” for the comparison to Nineveh, He was making it clear that Nineveh had the same problem at their CORE – vain human wisdom and strength that can NEVER BE COMPARED to Almighty God! Yet, in Egypt’s heyday, Pharaoh thought he was more powerful than God. In Assyria’s heyday, Sennacherib thought he was more powerful than God. In Babylon’s heyday, Nebuchadnezzar thought he was more powerful than God. This devilish thinking can be traced all the way back to Satan who wanted God’s glory.

When **unbelievers** think they are BETTER than God and SMARTER than God and, as a result, are not accountable to God, they are doing what “*populous No*” did ... and Nineveh ... and Babylon ... and ALL the kingdoms of the world throughout history who opposed God. They will spend eternity in a literal hell because of PRIDE – not asking Jesus Christ to save them!

When **believers** think they are BETTER than God and SMARTER than God and, as a result, seek the world’s wisdom and help, they are ALSO doing what “*populous No*” did. UGH! And, God calls us REBELLIOUS because we HAVE HIM and HIS SPIRIT and HIS WORD!!

2. God says that Nineveh’s **strongholds** will fall; a ***grievous wound*** that will _____ **heal**. Verses 11-19

- ✓ **ALL** thy STRONG HOLDS shall be LIKE fig trees ... and thy PEOPLE ... are WOMEN.

Revelation 6:13-17 *“the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even AS A FIG TREE casteth her...figs, when she is SHAKEN of a mighty wind...And the KINGS of the earth, and the GREAT MEN, and the RICH MEN, and the CHIEF CAPTAINS, and the MIGHTY MEN...**hid themselves**”*

Isaiah 19:16 *“In THAT DAY shall EGYPT be LIKE UNTO WOMEN: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the SHAKING of the hand of the LORD of hosts, which he shaketh over it.”*

Jer 50:37; 51:30 *“And they shall become AS WOMEN ... **The mighty men of Babylon** have forborne to fight, they have remained ... their might hath failed; they became AS WOMEN...”*

NOTE The kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the chief captains, and the mighty men are worshipped in our day and throughout history. But, think about this for a minute. A man who dies as the GREATEST on planet earth – ONE SECOND AFTER DEATH – becomes the poorest beggar in hell who has lost his own soul. And the man who dies as the LEAST on planet earth – ONE SECOND AFTER DEATH – becomes among the greatest in heaven!!

- ✓ **O KING OF ASSYRIA** ... There is NO HEALING of **thy** BRUISE; **thy** WOUND IS GRIEVOUS.

Genesis 3:15 *“... IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, and THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.”*

Revelation 20:10 *“And **the devil** that DECEIVED THEM was CAST **into the lake of fire and brimstone** ... and SHALL BE TORMENTED day and night FOR EVER and EVER.”*

NOTE All that hear the noise of the fall of Nineveh shall clap the hands over thee! And, ALL that hear of the demise of SATAN – upon whom his wickedness passed continually – shall give glory to the Lamb for delivering them from death and making them SONS and DAUGHTERS!