

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Nahum – Message 3

2017 VISION: *Prioritizing God*

Scriptures for Today: Nahum 2:1-13 – Nineveh’s doom is described; Nineveh is Executed

Title of Today’s Message: **The God of Prophecy – *When the mighty enemies of God flee away!***

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw God in the light of Scripture. And, we were reminded of His **POWER** and His **JUSTICE**. The Bible says God is good, and the very attribute that people are “*hoping*” will grant them access into heaven **without Christ** is going to be their ruin. If God is good, then He must punish sin. Today, we are going to see more incredible prophecies **that came to pass** against Nineveh and the Assyrians. In the holy Bible, God has accurately predicted the _____ before it happened 100% of the time! The reason is simple – He wanted there to be **NO DOUBT** that this Book was from Him! Nineveh was believed to be (by its king and people) an impregnable fortress. With its walls _____ feet high and wide enough for 3 chariots to race, what could possibly break through them they thought. Historians record that the siege by Babylon and the Medes against Nineveh was intense. Its great walls baffled the engineering skill of the besiegers for 2 years. Then, God determined that He was going to help the besiegers by bringing out His powerful weapon of choice – _____ ...

PREACHING NOTES

1. The judgment upon **the city** of Nineveh is described – the **gates** of the _____ shall be *opened!*

- ✓ God had **used Assyria** to **chasten His rebellious people**, but now it was time for their judgment.

Deuteronomy 8:5 *“Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, AS a man chasteneth his son, SO the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.”*
Job 5:17 *“Behold, HAPPY is the man whom God CORRECTETH: therefore DESPISE NOT thou the CHASTENING of the Almighty”*
2 Samuel 7:14 *“I will be his FATHER, and he shall be my SON. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the ROD of MEN, and with the STRIPES of the children of MEN”*
Isaiah 10:5-12 *“O Assyrian, the ROD of mine anger, and the STAFF in their hand is mine indignation.”*
Hosea 10:1 *“Israel is an empty VINE...” John 15:1, 5 *“I am the true VINE...I am the VINE...”**

NOTE God declares that although He had used Assyria to “*turn away*” the excellency of His people, it was time for that chastening to end. It was time for God to punish Assyria. Israel is called the “*empty vine*” in Hosea. Jesus is the TRUE vine for God’s people. Although, their branches were “*marred*” they were NOT forsaken. God was coming to their rescue.

- ✓ The **soldiers** of the Babylonians and Medes would come **in red and scarlet** with chariots blazing.

Revelation 2:20 *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest THAT WOMAN JEZEBEL, which calleth herself a PROPHETESS, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed to idols.”*
Revelation 17:4 *“And THE WOMAN was arrayed in purple and SCARLET colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup...BABYLON THE GREAT”*
Isaiah 66:15 *“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with HIS CHARIOTS like a whirlwind, to render his anger with FURY, and his rebuke with FLAMES OF FIRE.”*

NOTE Historians record that the color of the valiant soldiers besieging Nineveh (Babylonians and Medes) were red and scarlet in color with the Assyrians being blue and white. What a prophecy! Do not miss that Babylon and “*Jezebel*” in Rev 17:4 are arrayed in SCARLET!! And, Isaiah prophesies of Babylon with God overrunning them with chariots and fire!

- ✓ The GATES of the RIVERS shall be **OPENED**, and the PALACE shall be **DISSOLVED**.

Exodus 14:21-25 *"And Moses stretched forth his hand over THE SEA, and THE SEA returned to HIS STRENGTH when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of THE SEA ... there remained not so much as one of them ... Thus the LORD saved Israel THAT DAY... And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people FEARED the LORD, and BELIEVED the LORD, and his servant Moses."*

Judges 5:1-22 *"They fought from heaven; the STARS in their courses fought against Sisera. The RIVER of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river ... thou hast trodden down strength."*

NOTE As in the days of old, God fought against the enemy of His people with His mighty creation! An account by one historian tells that the siege against Nineveh and its great walls baffled the engineering skill of the besiegers; but that "in the third year it happened that by reason of a continual discharge of great storms, the Tigris River being swollen, both inundated a part of the city and overthrew the wall and the water gate." That is an incredible prophecy!

- ✓ That *great city* Nineveh was plundered, the **majestic spoils taken**, and its **beauty overthrown**!

Jeremiah 51:56 *"...for the LORD God of recompenses shall SURELY REQUITE."*

Judges 1:7 *"Threescore and ten kings, having their thumbs and their great toes cut off, gathered their meat under my table: AS I HAVE DONE, SO GOD HATH REQUITED ME."*

Luke 6:31 *"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."*

Isaiah 13:19-22 *"And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, SHALL BE AS WHEN GOD OVERTHREW SODOM AND GOMORRAH..."*

Revelation 18:2,10 *"And he cried mightily ... saying, BABYLON THE GREAT IS FALLEN ... Alas, alas, THAT GREAT CITY Babylon, that mighty city! For in ONE HOUR is thy judgment come."*

NOTE The Assyrians were said to have plundered and amassed a majestic treasury of riches from all the cities and nations they had pillaged. God surely did requite them for their terror! The prophetic picture is significant. One day, that great one-world political power and religion of the Antichrist (and Satan his power) will be overthrown with a great overthrow!

2. The judgment upon **the king** of Nineveh is described – WHERE is the dwelling of **the** _____ ???

- ✓ The Assyrians prided themselves on being **like lions** and even used images of lions for symbols.

Genesis 49:27 *"Benjamin shall RAVIN AS A WOLF...he shall DEVOUR the prey..."*

NOTE The Assyrians used lions to depict how fierce they thought they were. God is calling them out in verses 11-12 and asking, "Where are those mighty lions?" How fast things change...

- ✓ That **old lion** who WALKED ABOUT and the lions **who followed him** were cutoff by the SWORD!

1 Peter 5:8 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, AS A ROARING LION, WALKETH ABOUT, seeking whom he may DEVOUR"*

Revelation 12:9; 20:2 *"...that OLD serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world"*

Jeremiah 50:31 *"Behold, I am against thee, O thou MOST PROUD, saith the Lord GOD of hosts..."*

Revelation 5:5 *"Weep not: behold, THE LION of the tribe of Judah, the ROOT of David, hath prevailed"*

Revelation 19:11-21 *"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True...The Word of God...out of his mouth goeth a sharp SWORD"*

NOTE Clearly, the Assyrians had ravaged and devoured their enemies. But, do not miss that the king of Assyria is a type (or picture) of the Antichrist and Satan himself! He wants to devour your house and mine, and he wants to devour God's church. The good news from vs 13 is that the LORD of hosts is AGAINST him! And, he does not win the WAR! He may, however, have his share of victories over you and me. Note, the SWORD of the Lord Jesus Christ is what **devours** him! And, **THE VOICE OF HIS MESSENGERS SHALL NO MORE BE HEARD!!**