

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: The Book of Nahum – Message 2

2017 VISION: *Prioritizing God*

Scriptures for Today: Nahum 1:1-15 – Nineveh’s doom is declared; Nineveh is Judged

Title of Today’s Message: The Good Judge – *What do you imagine against the LORD?*

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we introduced the book of Nahum which historically follows some 150 years after the book of Jonah. After Nineveh had repented and believed God’s words (Jonah 3), it was not long before they were back to their sinful ways. By 721 BC, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been overrun by Assyria and had been carried away captive. At the time of Nahum, Assyria had begun to invade Judah. Historians record that some 46 cities and over 200,000 captives were taken from Judah before God determined it was time to intervene. God had been slow to anger. He had given Nineveh **LIGHT**, and they had rejected it. God’s judgment was going to be directed toward the Assyrian capital, and there would be **NO** healing this time. Today, we will see God in the light of Scripture. We will be reminded of His _____ and His _____. 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. God wants to speak through His words...listen closely.

PREACHING NOTES

1. A proper perspective of Almighty God – who can _____ before the LORD’s indignation?

- ✓ God is **jealous**, and the LORD **revenge**...is **furious**...will take **vengeance**...reserveth **wrath**...

Exodus 20:1-6	<i>“Thou shalt have <u>no other gods before me</u>...I the LORD thy God am a jealous God”</i>
Joshua 24:19	<i>“Joshua said...<u>Ye cannot serve the LORD</u>...for he is an holy God; he is a jealous God”</i>
Numbers 5:11-29	<i>“This is the law of jealousies, when a wife goeth aside to another instead...”</i>
Joel 2:18	<i>“Then will the LORD be JEALOUS for His land, and pity His people.”</i>
Deuteronomy 32:35	<i>“To me belongeth VENGEANCE and RECOMPENSE...”</i>
Isaiah 66:15	<i>“behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a WHIRLWIND”</i>
Romans 2:5,6	<i>“But after thy hardness and impenitent heart TREASUREST UP unto thyself WRATH against <u>the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God</u>;”</i>
Hebrews 10:31	<i>“It is a fearful thing to FALL INTO THE HANDS of the living God.”</i>

NOTE There is no doubt that Nahum chapter 1 is designed to remind Nineveh and the world who the LORD of all the earth really is!! The imagery and strong descriptions are intense and meant to bring fear. And, why shouldn’t God do that?!? He is dealing with a king who has become his own god! The Assyrians had forgotten their Maker! And, so has the world...

- ✓ As Judge, Almighty God is **justified in bringing judgment** to Nineveh **BECAUSE** He is _____!

1 Chronicles 16:34	<i>“O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.”</i>
Deuteronomy 32:4	<i>“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, JUST and RIGHT is he.”</i>
Nehemiah 9:33	<i>“Howbeit thou art JUST in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done RIGHT, but we have done WICKEDLY;”</i>
Job 4:17	<i>“Shall mortal man be more JUST than God? shall a man be more PURE than his maker?”</i>

NOTE So many people have created a god in their minds that is GOOD but **not JUST**. That is not the God of the Bible. If God IS a good Judge, then He cannot allow guilty criminals to go unpunished. If God IS good, then we would expect Him to “*not at all acquit the wicked!*”

2. A powerful prophecy for the Assyrian king – what do you *imagine* _____ the LORD?

- ✓ No counsel will stand **against the LORD** – there would **not** be a *second chance* for Nineveh!

Psalm 2:1-4

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?”

Proverbs 21:30

*“There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel **against the LORD.**”*

NOTE

The prophecy was clear for Nineveh and her king. Although she was given an opportunity for repentance the 1st time (Jonah’s preaching), there was not going to be a 2nd chance.

- ✓ While the soldiers of Nineveh were **partying and drunk**, they would be *devoured quickly!*

1 Thessalonians 5:3

*“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then **sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.**”*

NOTE

Historians record that a drunken feast was going on the night the Babylonians took the city! Wow! That is a specific and direct prophecy from Almighty God! That is exactly how Jesus Christ is going to come upon this world. They are drunk and overfed. We must warn them.

- ✓ There is **ONE** that *imagineth evil against the LORD* – a *wicked one* that will be cut off!

Ezekiel 31:1-14

*“Behold, THE ASSYRIAN was a cedar in Lebanon...**exalted above all...**The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him...all the trees of Eden...envied him.”*

Ezekiel 28:12-19

*“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God...Thou art **the anointed cherub**...”*

1 John 3:12

*“Not as Cain, who was of that **WICKED ONE**, and slew his brother...”*

Genesis 10:8-11

*“And Cush begat **Nimrod**...the beginning of his kingdom was **Babel ... Nineveh**”*

NOTE

There is ONE that imagines evil against the LORD – that is Satan! Sennacherib (2 Kin 16,17) is only a type of that wicked one! Prophetically, he is a type of the Antichrist who will be CUT OFF at the end of the Tribulation Period and the devil at the end of Revelation 20:10.

- ✓ The LORD speaks directly to the Assyrian and promises to **cut off his seed** and **his false religion!**

Exodus 20:4

“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...”

Judges 17:1-13

*“Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and **be unto me a FATHER**...Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.”*

Revelation 17 & 18

*“And **the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour**...And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.** And I **saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...**”*

NOTE

God was about to use the Babylonian armies to bring Nineveh and her king and her false religion to ruin! Nineveh was going to fall! And, she did. Prophetically, do not miss that this is going to happen again at the end of the Tribulation Period. Babylon is going to fall!

- ✓ For Israel, the prophecy was to bring HOPE, GOOD TIDINGS of PEACE, and one day the CHRIST!

2 Kings 19:32-37

*“And it came to pass that night, that **THE ANGEL of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand...**”*

Zechariah 14:1-8

*“Then shall the LORD go forth, and **fight against those nations**...And **HIS FEET** shall stand in **THAT DAY** upon the MOUNT of Olives...And **ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains**...and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”*

Romans 10:1-17

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...”

NOTE

After this prophecy, God brought peace from the Assyrian terror. Prophetically, Jesus Christ will bring the BEST TIDINGS for Israel on the mountains when He comes for them! The reminder for God’s people was, “KEEP” those feasts and vows – I am coming to your rescue!