

## Don't Fret About The Fetters

- **Opening:**

- *"Jesus breaks every fetter... and He sets me free..."*
  - **Start soft. Set the atmosphere.**
- A fetter was a set of binding clamps and chains locked around your ankles or wrists. They were put there not just to limit your movement.
- Psalm 107:10 *"Some sat in darkness, in utter gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains..."*
  - **Then return to the song, slowly:**
- *"Jesus breaks every fetter... and He sets me free..."*
- *"He's a mighty load bearer... and He sets me free..."*
  - Turn to your Bible and find Nahum chapter 1.
- *"I will shout hallelujah... for He sets me free..."*
  - Is there anybody free here today?
- *"I will give God the glory... for He sets me free..."*
  - One more time,
- *"Jesus breaks every fetter... and He sets me free..."*

- **Nahum 1:13**

- **13** And now I will break off his yoke from you  
And snap the bonds that bind you."

- **Pray**

- **Introduction**

- We have all at one point or another felt as if we were stuck, bound, being held back, or even trapped and oppressed. Feeling like the whole world turned against you; hopeless, helpless, restless, and worthless. As if everyone and everything around you is racing past, while we have chains and fetters binding us in place.
- But many times, we fail to realize that those chains are forged and clamped down tightly by our very own decisions. We get caught up just trying to live life, just trying to survive, until one day we look up and everyone else around us seems to have peace, joy, and happiness. Friends are pursuing lifelong dreams. Family members seemed to be blessed beyond understanding.
- Or we wake up one day and look around at the circle of influence and realize that everyone around us is hurting, suffering, and heading down a dead-end road, just like you. We begin to contemplate if life is supposed to mean so much more than just waking up, hustling, hoping, hurting, and then hibernating.
- I'm going to be honest with you today, I'm not here to preach to the perfect church members. I'm not here to stir up the saints who think they have it all figured out. I'm here to preach to the ones who are lost. The ones who are hurting. The ones who are trying to figure out why their life does not seem to have a sense of purpose or direction. The souls that are hopeless and helpless because the Spirit of God, the will of God, and the fire of God are not living deep down inside of you.
- There are those of you underneath the sound of my voice today who may have never known Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Others may have known Him once, loved Him, considered themselves a disciple, but today you feel distant. You may feel disconnected or insensitive to the touch of His holy Spirit. And there are some of you, dare I say a word that is not heard much in churches today, backslidden.

- There's something comforting about knowing that you're not alone in your struggle. To know that there have been others who have gone through and made it out of what you are facing. **That's why the prophetic book of Nahum is applicable here.**

## • Background

- His name means "**Comfort**". We don't know much about him, and what we do know is still shrouded in mystery and uncertainty. He was from a place called **Elkosh**, a location lost to history. But many scholars believe Elkosh may refer to **Al-Qush**, a small village *north of Nineveh*, right outside enemy headquarters. That means Nahum wasn't just writing *about* the Assyrians from a faraway land, He was behind enemy lines... prophesying their downfall... from their very own backyard.
  - He was writing **comfort** to a land gripped by **captivity**. He was preaching **hope** while everyone else saw **havoc**
- At this point in history, Judah was suffering under the Assyrian Empire. **Not because God had forgotten them, but because they had forgotten God.**
  - They had broken the covenant.  
They had turned to idols.  
They had tolerated injustice.
  - So God, in His mercy and sovereignty, had allowed the cruel nation of Assyria to oppress Judah.
    - **This seems counterintuitive.** If God loves them, why would he allow them to be afflicted?  
**He wasn't afflicting them to destroy them, but to discipline them.** To shake them. To awaken them to their senses and their right minds. To turn their hearts back to Him.

- Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. And yes, this is the same Nineveh that Jonah had brought repentance to just 150 years before. **Jonah brought mercy to Nineveh. Nahum brings judgment to Nineveh.** One came with a *second chance*, the other with a *final word*. Within just a couple of generations, Nineveh had regressed to its terrible, gruesome ways.
    - Historical records indicate that the Assyrian Empire was particularly feared and regarded as evil.
    - They were known for decimating city and displaying their victims in horrifying ways
    - They were absolute masters of psychological warfare.
  - God had used them as a rod of correction on the nation of Judah, because, as Hebrews 12; Proverbs 3; and Revelation 3 explain, God chastises those whom He loves.
  - Standing in the shadow of Assyria's cruelty, Nahum doesn't flinch, because he knows something bigger than the empire; **He knew the God who has Power Over Everything.**
- **God's Power Over Everything (vv. 1–6)**
  - Speaking through the prophet Nahum, the Lord decides to display his power and absolute control over everything. He is informing anyone who doesn't know and anyone who might have forgotten who He is and what He does.
    - Verse 2 describes Him as a jealous God. And this jealousy causes Him to become vengeful and wrathful towards those who mess with His people.
    - The first half of verse 3 says that "He is slow to anger but great in power, and will by no means clear the guilty." This is different from the typical pattern seen in scripture. Usually, when he says that he is slow to anger, it is followed by "and abounding in steadfast love."

- **Exodus 34:6-7:** “*slow to anger*, and abounding in steadfast love...”
- **Joel 2:13:** “*slow to anger*, and abounding in steadfast love...”
- **Psalm 103:8:** “*slow to anger*, and abounding in steadfast love.”
  - But here, His steadfast love for His people turns His anger into a great display of power.
- The second half of Verse 3 through Verse 6 paints such a vivid picture of God’s power.
  - His way is in the whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.
  - He rebukes the sea and rivers and makes them dry.
  - Bashan with its beautiful pastures, Carmel with its lush vineyards, and Lebanon with its mighty cedars; all of it withers and fades away at His voice.
  - Mountains quake before Him.
  - Hills melt beneath Him.
  - Who can stand before the heat of His indignation and anger as He pours out His wrath like fire?
- **This is the kind of God we stand before today.** While life is thrown into calamity, it feels like the world is at the edge of disaster, and the future feels like a threat, **God is still in control.**
  - He is not a silent spectator watching history unfold like a chess game, but a sovereign King who rules over the affairs of mankind.
  - He still bends down low enough to hear the cry of the crushed.

- Yes, He's the whirlwind-riding, fire-breathing, mountain-melting God, but don't miss this: **the same God whose power shakes the earth also offers peace to His people.** Because tucked right here in verse 7, we find... **God is a Stronghold in the time of Struggle.**

- **God's Stronghold in the Struggle** (v 7)

- This is where the good news begins for those who are here, hurting, and downtrodden. I've shown you the storm, now it's time to show you the shelter.
- Notice that verse 7 says the **Lord IS good.**
  - Not WAS good, not WILL BE good; but **right now**, in the middle of the madness, **He IS good.**
- He is a stronghold in the day of trouble.
  - Don't get it twisted, a stronghold is not a place to hide the weak; it is a safe place for those wise enough to choose it.
  - Folks will look at you and say,
    - “You only run to church because you're broken.”
    - “You lean on God because you're weak and need a crutch.”
 But only a fool stays exposed and vulnerable when there's a fortress open and waiting.
- I need everyone to listen:
  - You may feel too far... but God still knows your name. You may feel too messed up... but He still calls you His own. You may be backslidden, disillusioned, ashamed, and convicted, but He's not waiting with wrath; He's waiting with refuge.
- While His protection **holds us**, He **handles His enemies**. He **comforts us**, and He **confronts the wicked**, because **God has a Verdict Against the Violent.**

- **God's Verdict Against the Violent (vv 8-12)**

- It may feel like God's been silent, but when you finally call on Him to be your refuge, God will bring a verdict against the violent.  
He will silence the accuser.  
He will address every attack.  
He will deal with every plot, every principality, and every threat that has set its aim on keeping you stuck under the yoke of oppression and fetters of bondage.
- But it does no good for God to judge the enemy if you're still left in fetters of bondage. That's why verse 13 says that **God Promises to Break Every Fetter.**

- **God's Promise To Break Every Fetter**

- God has dealt with all of the enemies, but now it is time for Him to deal with YOU.
- A yoke is a wooden bar laid on the neck of an animal. Just a small pull could control the whole body to do its master's bidding. Isn't that what the enemy's been doing to you? Aren't you tired yet of this yoke weighing so heavily upon you?
  - Luckily, Isaiah chapter 10 says that there is an anointing that will break the yoke, and Jesus, in Luke chapter 4, came in that very same anointing to break off the yoke and set the captives free today.
- And the fetters that once clamped around your feet are broken.  
Yes, they might have been forged by your own hands,  
But *Joel 2:32* says, "*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be delivered.*"
- God says, if you **cry out**, you can **come out**.
  - And if you are feeling the desire to cry out, I'm here to tell you, **Don't Fret About The Fetters.**

- So **Don't Fret About The Fetters**
  - The sign that this is your time of deliverance is found in verse 15.
    - “Look, on the mountains the feet of one who brings good tidings.”
    - If what you're hearing today stirs something deep in your spirit,  
if it sounds like good news  
If it sounds like peace  
If it sounds like joy  
I want you to know that this is the sound of freedom.  
I'm here to declare to you that **your help is here and your time is now.**
  - It's time for hell to lose its grip on your life.
    - It's time for sins to be forgiven.  
It's time **for yokes to be destroyed**  
**Its time for chains to be broken**  
**Its time for fetters to burst open**
    - And when the fetters are gone, you're free to walk  
Free to run  
Free to dance  
Free to worship  
And, most of all, you're free to LIVE!!!  
Jesus says, **“I've come to give you life, and life more abundantly.”**
  - All it takes is just **one drop** of the mighty blood of Jesus  
**With just one touch** of the Holy Ghost  
**With just one moment** in His glory
    - And then you'll be able to say,  
“Jesus breaks every fetter,  
Jesus breaks every fetter,  
Jesus breaks every fetter,  
And He sets... me... FREE!”



- Altar Call – (media team needs to begin to play some soft altar music)

- Immediately call the prayer team down to the front and invite those who are lost and hurting to come receive their freedom.
  - If you're bound, come.  
If you feel too far gone, come.  
If you're ready to live again, come.