

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

Nahum: Judgment as Comfort

Slide 2:

Nahum 1:1-8 (ESV)

An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;

the LORD is avenging and wrathful;

the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries

and keeps wrath for his enemies.

The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,

and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.

His way is in whirlwind and storm,

and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;

he dries up all the rivers;

Bashan and Carmel wither;

the bloom of Lebanon withers.

Slide 3:

The mountains quake before him;

the hills melt;

the earth heaves before him,

the world and all who dwell in it.

Who can stand before his indignation?

Who can endure the heat of his anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire,

and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

The LORD is good,

a stronghold in the day of trouble;

he knows those who take refuge in him.

But with an overflowing flood

he will make a complete end of the adversaries,

and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

Slide 4:

Nahum = "To Comfort"

Capernaum = Kapar Nahum = Village of Nahum

Slide 5:

Nahum is in 2 parts

Part 1) God is the Judge of the World (Chapter 1)

Part 2) What is the judgment for Nineveh/Assyria? (Chapters 2/3)

Slide 6:

We need to know who God is so we can filter how we feel about what He does

Slide 7:

Today's "Upside-Down Theology"

We decide what we like first before we align to it.

Slide 8:

Exodus 34:6-7 (ESV)

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Slide 9:

Matthew 25:41 (ESV)

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'

Slide 10:

God's Wrath is Necessary Because:

I. God is Love

Slide 11:

"God is love. Love is God's being, nature and character. God acts with faithful love in all that He does, or perhaps towards all that He has made. Everything in the universe calls forth God's love and is the object of it. There's nothing in the whole created universe that God does not love with one exception. Only one thing in the universe arouses God's anger...and that is evil. Why? Because the very essence of evil is to resist, to reject and to refuse the love of God. Evil is, in essence, rebellion against God's love. Evil seeks to frustrate all the good purposes that God's love seeks to achieve for His creation. What sort of God would He be if He were not angry with everything that tries to wreck His good creation? Anger is the totally justified reflex of love when it is betrayed and frustrated. Would you want to be loved by a God who was not angry against evil?" Christopher Wright (The God I Don't Understand)

Slide 12:

God's Wrath is Therefore Comforting Because:

I. God Loves Us

Slide 13:

God's Wrath is Necessary Because:

I. God is Love

II. Ultimate Evil will not Relent

Slide 14:

If God applies grace to impossibly unrepentant evil, God will become an accomplice to evil

Slide 15:

God's Wrath is Therefore Comforting Because:

I. God Loves Us

II. God is Quick to Forgive, but Patient in Wrath

1) You should be glad (you are quick to sin, slow to obey/submit)

2) It gives purpose to suffering

Slide 16:

God's Wrath is Necessary Because:

I. God is Love

II. Ultimate Evil will not Relent

III. God is Just

Slide 17:

Colossians 3:25 (ESV)

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Slide 18:

God's Wrath is Therefore Comforting Because:

I. God Loves Us

II. God is Quick to Forgive, but Patient in Wrath

III. We are Saved by Justice

Slide 19:

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and _____?_____ to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What are the emotions you feel when someone mentions "The Wrath of God"? Are any of the emotions comforting? Why or why not?

2. Is it possible to love and not feel wrath?

Paul quotes Psalm 4:4 in Ephesians 4:26...essentially..."Be angry, but don't sin." Why is it easy for God to be wrathful without sin, but hard for us to do it?

3. God must eventually destroy all evil so that we can live forever in a restored world absent of the presence of sin. Why do you think that our view of what is "worthy of destruction" differs from God?

4. God is Ultimate Love and Ultimate Righteousness. Is it possible to be righteous and let sin go unpunished? Is it possible to be Just and simply "clear the wicked"? Why or why not?

5. Often we think that it is the "softness" of God that saves us. That we have been granted mercy by a forgiving Judge who understands how very difficult it is for us to be right. He overlooks because He sees and loves, and "gets" us. Why is that view actually debasing the character of God, and woefully insufficient to our security in salvation?

I John 1:9...How does both LOVE and JUSTICE save us?

Explain how the cross solves the Grand Dilemma of God's perfect identity (found in Exodus 34:6,7) and give us all we need to feel loved and secure!

6. Prayer and Praise