

II. Nahum in Biblical Perspective
God's Word to Nations He has Blessed Who Oppose Him
"The Two-Fold Divine Inevitable"

Nahum 1

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This series and the evening series are very much entwined. In the book of Joel we find what God does when His people are blessed and they forget Him and in Nahum we see what God does with nations whom He has blessed that oppose Him. The nations will oppose Him unless the people of God in the midst of that nation do not forget Him. I'll start by reading the first few verses in Nahum because we'll be working our way through Nahum 1 in this study. In this study we'll determine the two-fold Divine inevitable that Nahum reveals in Nahum 1.

Nahum 1:1, 12-14 says [1] *An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.* [12] *Thus says the LORD, "Though they (Nineveh/Assyria) are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.* [13] *And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."* [14] *The LORD has given commandment about you: "No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile."*

The grass withers, the flower fades, God's Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

Nahum is not only a book tucked away in the Minor Prophets that is not visited often and there is a reason. It is because God reveals something about Himself in this text that we today, seemingly avoid. We don't preach God the Father but we preach God the Grandfather and grandfathers don't fit the picture of Nahum but we do so at our own demise. This passage has much to say to us.

Nahum is a burden, an oracle, a prophecy from God. It is a word that has been given to Nineveh the capital of Assyria. Nineveh is not a small town. It is mentioned in Hammurabi's code in 2200 B.C. It is recorded in Genesis 10 and is established by Nimrod from the line of Hamm of Noah after the flood. From that other cities of renown were built such as Babel, Ecrod, etc. and this is a city that is now in the 7th century is at the full height of its power. It had come into renowned power in the 8th century. It has just defeated the Egyptian Empire at the battle of Thebes that was record in Nahum 2. In 705 B.C. they captured Israel and God is using them to refine, purify and discipline the ten northern tribes.

It is a city that had been visited by God's redeeming grace 125 years earlier under the ministry of the prophet Jonah. At the time of Jonah Nineveh was under the judgment of God and if they would repent God would be merciful and God responded from the bottom to the top to the King's palace. They responded with a city wide, nation shaking revival. Now they are at the height of their power and at direction opposition to God – His Word, His glory, His name and His people. They aren't simply instruments to refine God's people for they are now perpetuating acts of violence that I cannot even describe to you. There is sexual perversion and immorality not only rampant among themselves but also the way they would inflict them upon their various captives and nations, including

the tribes of northern Israel. Their idolatry, greed, might, power and degradation was extraordinary that was found in this particular empire and capitaled there in Nineveh.

Now between 660 and 630 B.C. a no name prophet, Nahum, says to them in the midst of the height of their power and all their glory that they are about to be no more. In fact you won't even be found or covered. You will be put in a grave and there will be nothing left of you. He describes God's judgment and says that number one, it is irrevocable. There is no message of Jonah to repent. There is only the message of judgment to the nation. Secondly, Nahum then gives them in detail how He is going to do it decades before He does it while they are at the height of their power. I'm sure Nahum prophecy was dismissed, ridiculed and mocked and they thought it could not ever happen to them. In 612 B.C. Nineveh becomes no more. Its ruins would not be found for centuries until the late 1800s and then they begin to uncover them.

Here is a city that had walls 100 feet high and at some places 100 feet thick. It was protected by two rivers and one of those rivers filled a moat around it. Here was a city that was seemingly impregnable with all of the riches of the world at its feet and all the control of the world at its fingertips and all the military might where no army could stand against them. Nahum tells them that they are about to be no more.

It's one thing for someone to say that but the question is, who is saying it? So God does two things in Nahum 1. He gives seven of His attributes. These are not exhaustive of all of God's attributes but they are seven attributes that He reveals about Himself in order to then give us seven acts that He can and will use to accomplish His purposes in a fallen world of judgment of His enemies, of refining His people, and of warning of the judgment to come. So what are the acts of God available to Him to communicate and to accomplish His judgment, His initial but not final judgment of His enemies including nations, His use of these to purify, discipline and refine His people and through these warning of an even greater judgment to come that is irrevocable eternally? Who is this God who says this and what does He have available?

Let's look first of all at the seven attributes of God that are revealed in Nahum 1. Nahum 1:2 says [2] *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.* In this opening verse He gives three of His attributes.

This prophecy is a judgment against Nineveh, Assyria. Before we get to these attributes think about this. What kind of nation is this? Number one it is a Gentile nation. Number two it is a Gentile nation that has known the blessings of God's saving grace and overflow of God's common grace and mercy in its history. God has visited them with a spiritual awakening under the ministry of Jonah. Here is an initial outworking of blessing the nations from Abraham. Number three it is a nation that now opposes Him. They are committed to idolatry, sexual immorality and perversion, child sacrifice, violence and aggression against the nations of the world and in particular with a vengeance upon God's people, the ten tribes in their captivity since 705 B.C. They are now in arrogant and prideful opposition against God, His glory, His Word, His name and His people. It was for His glory, with His name, by His Word and His people that He had blessed them decades before. Fourthly, they are now under the judgment of God, their utter destruction and there is no offer of repentance and grace. It is a done deal. God is only telling them when it's going to happen and how it's going to happen. He has closed

the door of grace on this nation. Those are the four things to remember as we walk our way through this study.

Now let's get to the attributes of God. In Nahum 1:2 the first attribute given is that God is a jealous God. That reveals the attribute of God's relentless love. The jealousy of God reveals His love? Absolutely. Doesn't it say that love is not jealous in I Corinthians 13? That is speaking of a sinful jealousy. God is never jealous 'of' but God is jealous 'for' but love is jealous for that which is rightfully yours, rightfully entrusted to you. Here is an example.

I'm going to use Sinclair Ferguson's example of this when he was preaching one time. He was a seminary professor that I had and when he was preaching on the jealousy of God from another minor prophet he mentions about a small covenant child who approached him after his sermon. The boy said to him "Pastor, I thought the Old Testament God was jealous but not the New Testament God. Could you explain that to me?" He got down on his knees, eye to eye with this child and the mother is standing behind them beaming as her child is listening to them talk while her child is hearing a Christian world and life view from Sinclair. Sinclair went on with his example of this child by saying he could have responded differently to this child by answering his question this way; 'Why are you asking me that? Are you that stupid? The Bible says God's name is jealous. Why would you ask me that question? Why are you bothering me with that?' Sinclair said "If I perchance had answered that way do you know what would have happened next?" The wrath of mom would have descended upon me from that little boy's mom. She would have descended upon me with great vengeance because she is jealous for her child. She is not jealous of Dr. Ferguson but she is jealous for her child.

God is jealous for His people. He loves them. Even when He is using a nation to discipline them He does not allow that nation to treat His people, except as His people. So God is a jealous God for His people, His name, His glory and His Word and Nineveh was mocking and blaspheming God's name, God's glory, God's Word and His people. So therefore God will act jealous for His people, His name, His glory and His Word. He is jealous for and not of.

The second attribute is God is an avenging God. He says it three times just so you don't miss it. In other words, God will act upon His righteousness. This fills the attribute of righteousness. God will not be mocked or blasphemed by those who stand in opposition to Him.

The third attribute is God is a wrathful God and that reveals God's justice. God will bring appropriate justice, commiserate with the sin and appropriate to the sin, against His adversaries. He sometimes will store up wrath. He won't bring it immediately as He responds with patience but He is a God of wrath and sin must be paid for under the wrath of God for He is a just God.

The fourth attribute is that God is a great God. Nahum 1:3 says [3] *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.* Here we begin to learn more about God. The attribute of His greatness reveals His omnipotence and His power. He is El Shaddai. He is God Almighty. In other words, if I said to Nineveh, 'I'm going to take you down' and they laughed at me, it would be understandable for who am I but when God speaks, He is the God of all power and might. Any power Nineveh has

they have only derived it from God allowing them to have it and their power can be removed and His power is always supreme. He is sovereign over all the nations and over all the affairs of this world. So God stands almighty for everything is available to Him to accomplish His purposes.

The fifth attribute is God is slow to anger. He is a patient God. This does not mean God can forget His righteousness or set aside His jealousy and love for His people. It does mean He is slow to anger. He is patient. He is forbearing but Paul says the patience of God is designed to lead you, not to complacency but to repentance. That is what the patience of God is designed to lead us toward.

The sixth attribute is that God will not leave the guilty unpunished. God is holy. We see that God is a jealous God (relentless love), avenging God (righteous), wrathful God (justice), great God (almighty/omnipotent), God is slow to anger (patient) and He is not arbitrary for He is able to measure out His purposes with forbearance. In other words, God doesn't act in a fit of anger. God's anger comes with measured thought allowing us opportunities for repentance. Sixthly, God is surely holy. He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In Isaiah 6 Isaiah declares it with the angels and the seraphim – holy, holy, holy. It is not in the normative holy or in the comparative, holy, holy but to the superlative, holy, holy, holy. Every time the Bible peels back heaven there are two things you see – one is they are worshipping and two they have one song they are always singing – holy, holy, holy. This is found in Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4.

Holy certainly means moral purity. There is no sin within God but holy means wholly other. There is none beside Him. There is none like Him. There is only one God. There is not a good god and a bad god. Satan is a usurper and a pretender. There is only one God who exists and that is the God of glory who dwells as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. His holiness, His uniqueness, His otherness is so majestic, so weighty, so transcendent that even the angels He has made are equipped that they can't look on Him for with wings their eyes are covered. They don't land in His presence. With wings they stay before Him and their very feet are covered with wings because they are not to touch in place of Him. He says if you see Me you cannot live. This is the God we gather to worship today. This is the God we proclaim to the world. This is the God of glory, majesty and holiness. Isaiah says that even inanimate objects have enough sense to tremble when the song of praise is coming before Him. The train of His robe fills for that is the statement of His royalty and majesty. There is none like Him and this God who is glorious has come down to save us from our sins. His holiness will not allow sin to go unpunished. I'm a sinner but that's only number six.

Nahum 1:7 says [7] *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.* The seventh attribute is the Lord is good. He is a stronghold in the day of trouble, not for Nineveh but for His people, those who take refuge in Him. Nahum 1:12 says [12] *Thus says the LORD, "Though they (Nineveh) are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you (God's people), I will afflict you no more. I have disciplined you because I love but I will deliver you from your enemies.* God is good, revealing His grace and His mercy.

Now let's look at the acts of God. How does God accomplish His purposes? Nahum 1:3-6, 8-12 says [3] *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.* [4] *He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all*

the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. [5] The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. [6] 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. [8] But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness. [9] What do you plot against the LORD? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time. [10] For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried. [11] From you came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor. [12] Thus says the LORD, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.

When Nahum makes this declaration that they will be no more or rise up a second time, they will be consumed and removed, he then begins to give some of the acts of God which are not exhaustive like the attributes given as well. He gives seven of them to accomplish His judgment upon Nineveh and the nations who oppose Him. The first act he mentions is the whirlwind and the tornado. They stand at His command. Number two is the storms are at His command. Number three, is the drought is at His command. Number four is the famine, as the ground withers and bears no fruit, is at His command. Number five is the earthquakes, where the earth heaves and the rocks break, are at His command. Number six, the fire is at His command. Number seven is the flood is at His command. He makes all of these available and He has all of them at His command. All of these "catastrophes" stand at His command.

He can use these to do three things. Number one is He can use them to purify His people with their adversity to refine them. Number two He will use them to bring an initial judgment in this world upon people and nations as He so sovereignly decrees. Number three whenever He does this it is a warning of what is to come. When these "catastrophes" come we are not to question 'what was that supposed to do or be for.' When you see the acts of God that are at work you should then begin to pray 'Lord, what are You doing in the lives of Your people? Lord, what are You doing in the nations? Lord, what are You telling us? You are warning us of another judgment to come and that one is not temporary for that one is forever.' It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. These acts of God in the catastrophes of life are simply ringing the bell to remind you that there is coming a day with a judgment that is forever and ever.

Whenever God brings judgment or discipline He does it two ways. One is that He can give us over to our sins. This is what you want? Then I will give you the consequences. The second way is He can inflict judgment, just like you will inflict discipline to teach your children something and one of the things that God is saying is that if you think this is difficult there is a Judgment Seat coming and there is a verdict of 'depart from Me' with a place of fire that is irrevocable and forever. Here is a warning. God graciously is giving it but even at the same time He is delivering His people in the midst of it.

When God's judgment fell upon Egypt, where were His people? They were in Goshen being protected. God in the midst of His wrath of judgment and in the midst of refining His people will protect His people. He is good and gracious and a stronghold for those who take refuge in Him. God is upholding them in those very moments.

So why does God take the time in this text to tell us His attributes and His actions? He takes time to give us His attributes because it is one thing for Nahum to write the statement of what God is going to do to Assyria but nobody has the power to pull this off because Nineveh stands above all of that but there is One whom Nineveh stands and answers to. It is the God of glory, might and majesty. He is holy, righteous and jealous for His name, His Word, His glory and His people. So when God gives the prophecy of judgment God says ‘here are My attributes. I can do what I said.’

Secondly, God does this in detail because when God does it they will know Who did it. So God gives us His attributes and actions to let us know that He has the attributes and instruments to accomplish what He has promised and He is also revealing it to us and affirming it to us so that when He does it we know who did it. When He declares it then it is inevitable. This is what He is going to do.

What has He said here? There are two things I’m going to do. One I’m going to bring an end to Nineveh and two I’m going to deliver My people. This prophecy came sometime between 660 and 630 B.C. I am sure at the height of their power they mocked this prophecy. They mocked Nahum and I’m absolutely sure of that. In 612 B.C. Nineveh is gone. In 612 B.C. an army arrived outside of Nineveh. It was a rag tag allied army made up mostly of Babylonians with a few Medo-Persians and Egyptians. They had inferior weapons and inferior everything but they came up to Nineveh with its hundred foot walls, mote and its two rivers protecting it. Inside Nineveh was partying and there was nothing but disdain for those who were outside.

Then came a storm. The storm breaches the wall as the Coosa River and the Tigris overflow. The winds blow and as the wall is breached the armies of their opponents pour in. They destroy everything and the storms that ensue over the coming years totally cover Nineveh and it’s never found until the late 1800s. It has a grave – flood, fire, storms, wind, droughts – now nothing. God has accomplished His purposes and delivered His people at the same time from those who would persecute them to destroy them.

Here is the takeaway. God’s righteous judgments upon His enemies are unstoppable yet will also reveal His love for His people as He accomplishes their salvation by His grace. So here in the midst of all that He has prophesied there are two divine inevitables. Opponents of God, peoples and nations, will be judged under the righteous judgments of God. There is no escape but those who come to His one provision of escape, Jesus Christ, and make Him their trust, they now have a stronghold and God will deliver them by delivering them from their enemies.

When we rise up in all of our might, our arrogance, our sin, our opposition against God and our idolatry and we think God will not listen to it, God does listen to it. God will not be mocked in the arrogance against His name, His people, His glory and His Word. Saul/Paul is a good illustration of this. Saul was converted on the road to Damascus. He was struck down and the Lord speaks to him saying “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?” Saul was not at the Passion Week or at Calvary. When did Saul persecute Jesus? Whatever Saul did from Stephen to the others who he persecuted and killed in the name of his false religion, he was doing that against Jesus. The church of Jesus Christ, His covenant people, are the body of Christ and what we do against them we have done against Him.

That's why it says in Matthew 25 that on that day they will be gathered to Me. Matthew 25:34-40 says [34] *Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35] For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36] I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'* [37] *Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38] And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39] And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'* [40] *And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these **my brothers**, you did it to me.'*

This is what He says to the unrighteous. Matthew 25:41-46 says [41] *"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. [42] For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43] I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'* [44] *Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'* [45] *Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'* [46] *And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

God is absolutely identified with His people and He is jealous for them. He will deliver them. Part of His judgment upon the enemies is to deliver His people from their enemies. Do you remember the demoniac that Jesus sent the demons into the pigs? Here is this man possessed by demons and the Lord is about to deliver Him. How? It is by Him bringing judgment upon the enemies. He cast the demons out of the man into the swine and then the swine into the sea and into the abyss. He brings judgment upon enemies to deliver us and of course the most wonderful, majestic moment of that is when Jesus Christ goes to the cross and for the only time in history hell is on earth and all of hell, the wrath of God, is falling right on that spot at Calvary as Jesus Christ is drinking the cup of God's wrath to deliver us from our sins. There He defeats the enemy of sin, death, hell and the grave and delivers His people and becomes their stronghold.

This is the pattern that God has established. In the midst of it there are two things that are inevitable. One is that God will bring judgment against His enemies. The soul that sinneth shall surely die. The nation that stands against Him shall surely be brought low. Where were most of the Christians in the first 300 years after Christ's ascension? They were in Asia Minor. Today the lamp stand has been removed. Where were the greatest theologians in the first 300 years after Christ's ascension? They were in North Africa. Both places, Asia Minor and North Africa, are covered over with blaspheme of the Jihads. The only city near Nineveh, in Mosel, Iraq they have killed over 500,000 Christians and just yesterday gave an edict that says anyone that doesn't convert from Christianity to Islam we'll kill this week.

Persecution is everywhere. Persecution is starting here as this country is turning against God's glory, His name, His Word and His people. The absolute arrogance of this country to think we can take something that is divinely designed relationship to reflect the majesty, love and depth of God's love for His people and that's why marriage is here.

Marriage is here to communicate how much God in Christ loves His bride, the people. Then when evangelical institutions decide that they are going to redefine marriage and Biblical sexuality and they find out they are going to lose a lot of money they decide to repent but what they don't repent of is the blasphemy against God who has designed marriage for His glory. These are not matters we can traffic in. They belong to His glory, His name, His Word and His people. The dynamic of Biblical sexuality is not something you determine based on your happiness and fulfillment.

As a nation when we begin to codify these things and culture these things and the text even said they didn't get there without a counselor, it's our demise. The text said they had worthless counselors that led you to your destruction. Today in this country the nation is headed the way of Nineveh because the church is providing counselors for them who will accommodate anything as long as they get the approval of world. They are worthless counselors that are leading not only the church into spiritual impotence and Biblical illiteracy but they are removing the one salt and light that can restrain the work of evil in a nation and preserve that nation. So we become worthless counselors.

Liberalism is not a subset of Christianity. Liberalism stands in absolute enmity against everything that the Bible teaches. Jesus is God. Jesus Christ does the miraculous. Jesus made the atonement on the cross. That is not a martyr's death, it's an atoning death. Jesus Christ has done glorious things. He is the Son of God who has come in the flesh. He is risen. He is at the right hand of the Father. He is coming again. When God's Word speaks, it's true. Because there is an Adam there is a Second Adam. There is a real Adam and God made Him just like God brought His Word and gave Him flesh, the Second Adam, Jesus Christ. Do not listen to worthless counselors. If we do we have removed the very thing that is necessary in the church of Jesus Christ in order to be able to speak truth in love. Here is the work of God's grace as He brings forth His testimony in this world and God's holiness will be vindicated.

If I was to ask you what is the one word to describe God in most church and you have four letters, almost all of us would say it is the word love and rightly so because God is love in that sense, but if I was to give you one word to describe God I don't think it should be love but it should be holy. The Spirit of God knows the mind of God and what do we call the Holy Spirit? We don't call Him the love Spirit. His fruit is love but He is the Holy Spirit. God's Word tells us how to love but it's a holy Word. God's people love with truth but they are a holy people chosen, unto Him. Our God is holy.

That's how you make sense of Sodom and Gomorrah. That's how you make sense of the flood. This God who is holy and great is also good. So when you see that flood and the holiness of God you see an ark where God has saved His people in the midst of the judgment – Noah and his household. When you see the judgment of God falling upon sexual immorality and sexual perversion at Sodom and Gomorrah there are two angels by the hand rescuing Lot and his daughters. God is gracious.

The inevitable divine initiative will always be the judgment of unrepentant sin and the salvation of God's people in this world. He will not be mocked. There is no such thing as a private sin. How much more private can you get by taking a bite out of a fruit in a garden when nobody else is there? Look at the result of that bite in that garden where they disobeyed God's Word. They weren't killing fifteen million people but they were taking from the tree God said not to take from and they took and look what it set into motion. There is no such thing as privatized sin. We personally sin but it is not

privatized. It always has actions. Men, when we sit in front of that screen of pornography it will not only lead us into adultery but it will affect our relationship with our wives and they are using the money when we click on it to put girls on there. There is no such thing as privatized sin. It always has consequences. What makes sin heinous is not just the heinousness of any sin but the fact that all sin is against God. Against Thee I have sinned, David said. Surely I have sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah but ultimately the heinousness of sin is against the Thrice Holy God, who made me, gave His Son to redeem me, and the Spirit to uphold me.

Let me try and illustrate it this way. Let's say you walked up to me and slapped me. I'm not suggesting that you do that but let's say you did. I am reasonably sanctified and I can pretty well promise you that I am not going to do anything to you. The second time you slap me I'm making no promises but the first time I'm not going to do anything. What is going to happen? There may be some that would applaud you. Some people would be upset with you. You'll probably have to deal with my wife. Let's say you walk up and slap President Obama. You may not survive the moment and if you did you'll be in prison because there is a difference between me and President Obama.

Our sins are against, not preachers and presidents but against God. But God has loved you and He put His Son on a cross and for all of those sins against Him, His Son paid for it. He will be no means leave the guilty unpunished who have not fled to the Son for everlasting life. So I'd like to close with this verse. So what should we do? Here is what He says to His people.

Nahum 1:15 says *[15] Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.* He says here is what I'm going to do with the people and nations who oppose Me and by the way, God can call the day of grace off before death. That is why Peter says to people who have walked away from the Lord that their last state is worse than their first. Our first state when we are born in this world is that we are dead in our sins. What can be worse than being dead in your sins? It is that the day of grace has been closed even before your death. God can give you over even before death.

What should we do? He says to Judah, you're in a stronghold and I'll uphold you. The fact of God's goodness and grace to Judah or to His covenant people, is not given to Nineveh and when He gives that to His people that is not comforting to Nineveh for God to comfort God's people is to require God's judgment on His enemies. What should God's people do because people are in need of Jesus Christ and nations need to hear the Gospel from which they will be drawn into the Kingdom of God – men and women making disciples of all the nations? We are to get up on a mountain and announce Good News for there is a God who saves sinners. There is a Jesus who went to the cross and took on the enemies of God to save them, who is a stronghold for them. Get up on that mountain, announce Good News for the Lord God is glorious and greatly to be praised.

In closing remember where I started. Nineveh was a Gentile nation. We are Gentile nation. Nineveh was a Gentile nation that had been visited by God's saving grace and spiritual awakening. Have we? Absolutely. We had one from 1735 to 1780 and another one from 1795 to 1885 and we haven't had one since. Nineveh began to take the blessings of God and then oppose Him, His glory, His name, His Word and His people. They did horrendous, vile acts, sexual immorality and perversion, child sacrifices etc.

You might be thinking 'but we're not there.' Really? How about 50 million unborn babies being killed? We have learned how to codify it, legalize it and culturalize it and start to live with it, just like they did. Do you mean that America could be no more? Ask Egypt, ask Rome, ask Babylon, ask Nineveh, ask Assyria. Don't you see how powerful we are with Wall Street? They were at the height of their power and in 20 years they were gone.

My dear friends, Jesus Christ does not exist to be the tribal god of America. He is the Lord our God that we are to take to America but until we see Him in all His glory and see His Son in all of His majesty we'll play church. While we play church a nation will be lost. I left a fourth thing out. They are Gentile nation and we're a Gentile nation. They had spiritual blessings and we've had spiritual blessings. They began to oppose God and we're opposing God. We make Him a butt of jokes and we have no reverence for Him. He is fodder for the comedians. There is no sense and no shame to any of our coarseness anymore and we oppose Him. He brought judgment and He will bring judgment here. Here is what I don't know. Has the day of grace been closed here? There was no offering of grace to Assyria but I don't know that here. So I pray and ask God to please do something in us that we may see something done in our nation and then to the nations of the world and the Kingdom of our God would yet do a great thing in our midst and from our midst throughout all the world. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the moments we could be together in Your Word. We praise Your Name from whom all blessings flow. God I feel so inadequate for the burden of this text. I feel so small but God, You are great and You can not only use the fire, storms and tornadoes but You can use pulpits. God, please raise up faithful counselors in pulpits, faithful witnesses in churches, where the church of Jesus Christ worships and witnesses and speaks truth in love and loves with truth and Father, that we might yet see the saving work of Christ with another awakening. God please do that and not because You need America but we need You and O I pray that we want You. Make us men and women of prayer and the Word and a passion for the preeminence of Christ for I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.