

God is the Only God

Rev. Lex DeLong / General

Major Posts from Minor Prophets: Be an Influencer / Doctrine of God; Goodness of God / Nahum 1:1–11

God is God, the only God, Your God

Notes

05/07 Nahum 1:1-11 "God is the Only God" Subtitle: The Nature of God Scripture: Psalm 113

Nahum (7th of the 12 minor prophets; LXX is the only translation to place it after Jonah instead of between Micah and Habakkuk)

The name of the Prophet and His book of prophecy itself comes from the root *nḥm*, meaning "to comfort."

Nahum centers attention entirely on the impending fall of Nineveh resulting in the delivery of the people of Judah.

Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. to a coalition of Medes and Babylonians, under the leadership of Nabopolassar. Indicators place the writing of this book between 663 B.C. and that fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C., due to the mention of fall of Thebes 3:8-10 as yet a future event.

Remember the book of Jonah the prophet who was sent to Nineveh by God and witnessed an entire generation repent of their sins? That was around 793-753 B.C.

Only 2 to 3 generations after Jonah, Nineveh had returned to their old

debased sins and this time, God would pronounce a judgement on them for their torment on Judah.

By the time of Nahum the prophet's ministry and King Josiah who took the throne in 639 B.C., Assyria had dominated Judah for nearly 100 years, indicating that most likely, Nineveh's repentance lasted only for that 1 generation, who then saw their own children return back to their city's previous practices.

Nahum's purpose was to comfort Judah and to encourage Josiah. The young Josiah would have taken great comfort in hearing of the coming destruction of Nineveh whether imminent or in the near future.

Kenneth L. Barker, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, vol. 20, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 139.

Nahum had prophesied God's oracle of Nineveh to Judah and God did exactly what He had promised He would do for His people.

Nahum is sometimes thought of as the "Hymn of hate."

Kenneth Barker in the New Amer. Commentary wrote, "Nahum's message has become the prototype of the destruction of all evil—from that of Nineveh to Nazi Germany to the final end of all evil like that of Babylon in Revelation 18. Nahum's message is essential and timeless: the Lord reigns and will have the final word against evil. This means hope and deliverance by God for God's people."

Kenneth L. Barker, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, vol. 20, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 137.

The message of Nahum concerns God's character and his relationship to the world, not only to his own people but also to those who do not even

acknowledge him

David Baker concluded in *An Introduction and Commentary*, "This message of God through Nahum was to encourage God's people. Oppressed by a seemingly invincible foe who had overwhelmed the entire region from the Nile to the Tigris, Israel could not look to her own power, but only to God for deliverance."

David W. Baker, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah: An Introduction and Commentary, vol. 27, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988), 22.

What or who oppresses you? What keeps you awake at night? What dulls the light of hope with the dark shadow of despondency? What or who do you turn to for rescue or comfort?

For those who have turned to God as their Savior, there is hope. God never has nor ever will abandon His people. Like it was for Judah under the oppression of Assyria, there is hope for the people of God. Like it was for Assyria, there is judgment reserved for the proponents of evil.

Remember Obadiah 15? "15 "For the day of the Lord draws near on all the nations. As you have done, it will be done to you. Your dealings will return on your own head."

The Message of Nahum is this:

++God **is** God

++He is the **only** God

++He is **your** God

The Message of Nahum speaks to the Nature of Your God directed ...

- ++ Towards His creation
- ++ Toward those who Rebel against Him
- ++ Toward those who turn to Him

God's message speaks warning to everyone (Nahum 1:1-2)

- God detests evil
- God sees evil
- God avenges evil

God's justice imparts true equity to everyone (Nahum 1:3-6)

- God is patient v. 3a
- God is great in power
- God will punish the guilty
- God is over all vv. 3b-6

God's nature calls for everyone (Nahum 1:7)

- The LORD is good (Ps. 107:1; Ps. 135:3; Ps. 136:1)
- The LORD is safe to run to when you are in trouble ("stronghold")
- The LORD knows you when you run to Him

God's decree legislates destiny for everyone (Nahum 1:8-11)

- Evil ones cannot escape God's pursuit v. 8
- Evil schemes cannot out maneuver God vv. 9-10
- Satan will lose v. 11

God has designed us for and pleases with us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Christ (Mt. 16:24).

He urges us to trust Him with all our heart and acknowledge Him in all our ways (Prov. 3:5-6).

He reassures us that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:5).

He longs for us to rest, knowing that He works all things together for good for His people (Rom. 8:28).

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The only God

Your God

What are you holding onto that is His to carry?

Your time?

Your Finances?

Your oppressors?

Your job?

Your commitment?

Whatever you need to give to God, give it today, right here, right now.

Nothing escapes God's eyes.

Always, God is good and will do good.

God's goodness will always exceed your sacrifice. What are you waiting for?