



**Don't Sweat It, God's For Us!
Nineveh Though Is Finished
Nahum 1:1 – 2:2**

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When we left Nahum last time, we were in the middle of his exposition of the awesomeness of God. Before he outlines the judgement to come on Nineveh, he explains to Judah the God they should be following. This pending judgement on Nineveh, because of events going on in Judah, maybe a possible event on their horizon as well.

He does not say that, but the jabs at Baal we have already seen, and the excursion Nahum took to the end of the age, tend to show us that potential outcome. Let's recap.

Nahum 1:1–8

“The pronouncement of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite: A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. In the gale and the storm is His way, And clouds are the dust beneath His feet. He rebukes the sea and dries it up; He dries



up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, The blossoms of Lebanon wither. Mountains quake because of Him, And the hills come apart; Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence, The world and all the inhabitants in it. Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath gushes forth like fire, And the rocks are broken up by Him. The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.” (NASB 2020)

YAHWEH is much more secure than hiding out in Nineveh, or anywhere else for that matter. He is good and He is a stronghold, something that will become incredibly important to the people of Judah as their appointment with Babylon draws closer.

It will also become a top-of-mind item for them at the end of the age as well when the Antichrist shows up at the Temple 3 ½ years into the Tribulation and declares he is god and demands to be worshiped (Matthew 24:15 – 28). God is THE stronghold.

Nahum 1:8

“But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.” (NASB 2020)

After declaring where the real stronghold is, Nahum, without referring to Nineveh by name, discusses what is coming their way.

The picture is one of prophetic overwhelming destruction. ““An overrunning flood” pictures a river that is overflowing its banks and causing devastation as it moves. It is believed that this refers to the invading army of the Babylonians which overcame Nineveh. The Greek historian Ctesias of the fifth century B.C. records that the Babylonian army was able to invade Nineveh when the Tigris River suddenly overflowed and washed away the floodgates of the city and the foundations of the palace.” (McGee 1997, 820)

Nahum prophecies, and the Lord fulfills, literally. Let’s examine the historical background of the Assyrian Empire.

Historical Background on Assyria

Hezekiah, the king of Judah, under whom Nahum as well as Isaiah and Micah prophesied, had paid tribute for many years to Assyria. When he revolted an Assyrian army appeared in the land, by which over forty Judean cities were captured. Jerusalem itself was saved by divine intervention (Isaiah 37:36). Sennacherib, who had sent the expedition against Jerusalem, being murdered by his own sons in 681 B.C. (Isaiah 37:38). His successor was Esarhaddon, who besieged Sidon and carried its treasures to Nineveh. Assurbanipal succeeded him to the throne and made his son Shamash-shumukin regent of Babylon, for Babylon was then an insignificant



power. Here we must remember that when Babylon was next to nothing in world history, Isaiah had predicted its coming greatness and conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonian power. Under Assurbanipal the ancient and great capital of Upper Egypt was captured, which is mentioned by Nahum in chapter 3:10; that is, No-Amon is Thebes. Assurbanipal conquered many countries and nations; he razed Susa, and immense treasures were carried off to Nineveh. During his reign every year saw a cruel war, and ruin and carnage was spread in every direction. The captives were treated in a horrible manner, with all kinds of torture. The nations suffered terribly under this wicked monarch, so that when finally Assyria fell the nations rejoiced, as mentioned by Nahum at the conclusion of his prophecy. "All that hear the bruit of thee shall clap hands over thee; for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?" After Assurbanipal Assyria declined. He was followed by Asshur-etil-ilani and Sin-shar-ishkun, and finally Assyria and its great and proud capital were conquered by Nabopolassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar and Cyaxares. This happened about 625 B.C. (probably 612 BC), just about ninety years after Nahum announced the destruction of Nineveh. (Gaebelein 2009, 196)

How extensive was the devastation? "Shortly after Nahum's prophecy, this extent of devastation became Nineveh's literal experience. The sites of cities such as Jerusalem, Damascus, and Hebron have been occupied continuously from patriarchal times until today. Yet a scant three hundred years after the fall of the colossal city of Nineveh, travelers hardly suspected that the area ever had been inhabited." (Robertson 1990, 72)

Later, written evidence from the Babylonian Chronicle would record that Nineveh was destroyed in 612 BC. In 401 BC, when Xenophon and the retreating Greek army passed the ruins of Nineveh, the 'great city' was already an unrecognizable mass of debris. (Nixon 2003, 202)

Nahum 1:9–11

"Whatever you devise against the LORD, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice. Like tangled thorns, And like those who are drunken with their drink, They are consumed Like stubble completely dried up. From you has gone out One who plotted evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor." (NASB 2020)

Let's take a quick look at the timeframe in which Nahum is making this prophecy. Ashurbanipal is most likely the Assyrian King. At this point Israel has been in exile for some time. Judah is a vassal of the Assyrian Empire, again, thanks to King Manasseh of Judah. He may still be on the throne at this point.

It is also possible that King Josiah is on the throne, this is not all that clear. The Assyrian's are not the most trustworthy of empires. The Assyrian empire is extensive, and their military might formidable. But Nahum lets us know here that "the impending doom of Nineveh would come sooner rather than later. The prophetic accusation of plotting against the Lord is powerful.



Whatever imperial ambitions the Assyrians had for Judah, they were actually plotting against God, not merely against His people. The Assyrians may not have viewed themselves as plotting against the Lord, but that was in fact what their subjugation of the people of God amounted to.” (Redmond, Curtis and Fentress 2016, 155)

We have just been told in verse 8, YAHWEH is their stronghold. Psalm 2 expresses the viewpoint of the Lord on this topic. This would hold for the Assyrian Empire of Nahum’s time, as well as the Assyrian at the end of the age.

Psalm 2:1–4

“Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision.” (NRSV)

For 21st century believers, as we see the culture turning against us, we must remember who it is that they are plotting against. It isn’t us, but the Lord. I really like the encouragement we get in the GNB translation.

Nahum 1:9

“What are you plotting against the LORD? He will destroy you. No one opposes him more than once.” (GNB)

No lasting success can ever come to those who are the enemies of God. No blessing can ever come upon any who do not acknowledge the Lord to be the one who is in supreme control of all things. (Bentley 1994, 103)

Remember, the people of Nineveh repented, once, and their army was destroyed by God.

The people of Nineveh know better.

This promise of protection from YAHWEH in the light of seemingly overwhelming force is not only a comfort for Judah, but also for us. Again, as we look at what we just read in Psalm 2, the world is busy plotting against us, but where is the Lord? He is sitting. “He sits as the Great King on a glorious throne. He isn’t pacing back and forth in the throne room of heaven, wondering what He should do next. God sits in perfect peace and assurance.” (Guzik 2013, Ps 2:4-6)

For the people of Judah, many who were, by now, descendants of the refugees who fled from Assyria in Israel, now live in daily fear over being overwhelmed again by that nation. After all, didn’t they throw the Judean King Manasseh into prison in Babylon (2 Chronicles 31:11)? The fear is very real in Jerusalem.



But God tells them the people of Nineveh, the Assyrians, in His sight, are nothing more than weeds and drunks ready to be destroyed. Once again, the Holy Spirit steps in and has Nahum use a word that personifies the evil taking place – Belial.

The comment about their drunkenness making them ready for judgement, since this is a picture of the future fate of the Assyrian at the end of the Tribulation as well, suggests another drunk ready for judgement at the end of the Tribulation.

Revelation 17:4–6

“Now the woman was dressed in purple and scarlet clothing, and adorned with gold, precious stones, and pearls. She held in her hand a golden cup filled with detestable things and unclean things from her sexual immorality. On her forehead was written a name, a mystery: “Babylon the Great, the Mother of prostitutes and of the detestable things of the earth.” **I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of those who testified to Jesus.** I was greatly astounded when I saw her.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Immorality and the persecution of God’s people deserve the judgment of God; and that is exactly what he promises through Nahum: they will be consumed like dry stubble (10c). It’s not a pretty picture; but it is not inconsistent with the goodness of God who insists that those who plot evil against him will suffer loss. Their plotting against God and his people will be frustrated and defeated. (Bridger 2010, 123-124)

God goes out of His way to frustrate the plans of those who are His enemy.

Judah was of the mindset that they were surrounded, and they thought it was simply a matter of time before the Assyrian threat destroyed them. Much like it will be at the end of the age. They will indeed recall that He is their stronghold and will turn to Him as one (Zechariah 13:9).

Then reality will hit those who have stood against the Lord and His people.

Zechariah 14:3

“Then the LORD will go to battle and fight against those nations, just as he fought battles in ancient days.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Zechariah 14:12–13 “But this will be the nature of the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that have fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will decay while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot away in their sockets, and their tongues will dissolve in their mouths. On that day there will be great confusion from the LORD among them; they will seize each other and attack one another violently.” (NET 2nd ed.)

For the people of Judah, God will deal with those who have moved against them and plotted against them.



For us, He still does the same today. In verse 11, we read that those who plotted evil have gone out. “Taking the verb as a prophetic perfect, the sense of the verse is that the Assyrian will shortly depart from Judah. Yahweh will destroy Assyrian hegemony over Judah, and Judah will never again see this evil oppressor (cf. Isa. 33:18–19).” (Roberts 1991, 53)

Romans 8:31–39

“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (ESV)

He loves His own and that is who we are. That is also who Judah is. Were they perfect, no, they would be disciplined in the future with Babylon. Are we perfect, hardly, but we have the righteousness of Christ.

Philippians 3:7–11

“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” (NKJV)

Nahum 1:11

“From you has gone out One who plotted evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.” (NASB 2020)

The wicked counselor is where we see the personification of evil depicted in the Hebrew with the use of the word Belial. This is a word that to a Jew, would be a synonym for the Devil.

Who is it that has plotted evil, they may look like Assyrians, but they are truly being used as pawns by the Devil, Satan.



In Qumran and the Dead Sea scrolls, “the literature left by the sect describes Belial as an evil individual who, for the time being, exercises authority over humanity and even over some belonging to Israel. A recurring designation for the present eschatological age in the Dead Sea Scrolls is the “dominion of Belial” (1QS 1:18, 23–24; 2:19; 1QM 14:9–10; 4Q177 col. iii line 8; 4Q491 i 6).” (Stokes 2010, 435)

The figure of Belial here is the personification of Assyrian power, which has gone forth from the city of Nineveh “plotting evil against YHWH.” Together with their allies, the Assyrians are strong and ever so numerous. (Christensen 2009, 248)

This also clues us into the source of the insane ideas of those who plot against believers in the culture today, they are working for the enemy.

John 8:44

“You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (NRSV)

Here, Jesus identifies that it is spiritual warfare He has been engaged in. It was spiritual warfare God was engaged in on behalf of His people in Judah and it is spiritual warfare we are engaged in today as we confront the insanity of a culture gone mad. But Nahum has more promises for us.

Nahum 1:12–15

“This is what the LORD says: “Though they are at full strength and so they are many, So also they will be cut off and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no longer. So now, I will break his yoke from upon you, And I will tear your shackles to pieces.” The LORD has issued a command concerning you: “Your name will no longer be perpetuated. I will eliminate the carved image and the cast metal image From the house of your gods. I will prepare your grave, For you are contemptible.” Behold, on the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, Judah, Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is eliminated completely.” (NASB 2020)

God announces to His nervous people, who should know better based on past history, that He has this under control. Nahum relates that this word comes directly from the Lord. This serves as a guarantee from God, this will indeed take place.

He is saying that even though Assyria is at the pinnacle of power, He will cut them down and they will disappear as a people.



This is not the first time that the remnant of the nation has received a promise like this. After the plagues in Egypt and Pharaoh being forced to let them go, he decided to rally his troops, the most powerful military in the world at that time, and chase after them to return them to slavery. Everything began to look pretty hopeless to those looking through the eyes of the flesh, but Moses prophesied something similar to them.

Exodus 14:10–14

“And when Pharaoh drew near, the children of Israel lifted their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them. So they were very afraid, and the children of Israel cried out to the LORD. Then they said to Moses, “Because there were no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.” And Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will accomplish for you today. **For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The LORD will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.**”” (NKJV)

Moses told them that the most powerful military in the world at that time would all die and never bother them again. As soon as that was related to the people, the Lord moved on behalf of His people, and they crossed the Red Sea on dry land.

The Egyptian Army, drowned.

Since God has done this for them in the past, they should get it and not sweat it. But they had a faith issue due to ongoing obedience issues.

God even went further, just like the rescue from slavery and crossing the Red Sea into freedom. Here, the Lord tells His people that yes, Assyria was used by Him to discipline them, but that is now over. He will no longer afflict them in this manner with this particular international power.

God had used Assyria to afflict Judah in several ways: by Sennacherib’s attack in 701 B.C., by Judah’s having to pay tribute to Assyria during much of Manasseh’s reign, and by Judah’s King Manasseh being taken captive (2 Chron. 33:11). (Johnson 1985, 1499)

That is now all over. God will not and does not have to wait until Assyria is weakened. He makes this promise at the point they are the strongest.

Nahum 1:13

““So now, I will break his yoke from upon you, And I will tear your shackles to pieces.”” (NASB 2020)



This promise provides us some of the background either post-Manasseh's repentance or the rise of King Josiah and the revival soon to take place. Assyria's doom is imminent. The time period that would see the birth of Daniel and his friends was about to begin. For that to happen, the Lord would have to move again, and He did.

YAHWEH provides some details.

Nahum 1:14

"The LORD has issued a command concerning you: "Your name will no longer be perpetuated. I will eliminate the carved image and the cast metal image From the house of your gods. I will prepare your grave, For you are contemptible."" (NASB 2020)

The decree has gone out from the throne of the universe, it cannot be recalled. This divine decree tells those in Judah who are listening, that Assyria's days are numbered.

There will be no further descendants for the King of Assyria

How contemptible is Assyria? The prophet Ezekiel has a hall of shame in Sheol, actually a listing of those nations who will join Egypt waiting for final judgement in the pit. He lists Assyria as enemy Number 1.

Ezekiel 32:22–23

"Assyria is there, and all its company, their graves all around it, all of them killed, fallen by the sword. Their graves are set in the uttermost parts of the Pit. Its company is all around its grave, all of them killed, fallen by the sword, who spread terror in the land of the living." (NRSV)

It was only of Assyria that it was said that its graves are set in the uttermost parts of the pit, as deep as can be imagined, which was a sign of intense debasement and rejection. (Mackay 2018, 154)

In more modern terms, it is as if as each Assyrian member of the military dies and arrives in Sheol, they are given a shovel and told to dig deeper.

In Ezekiel's dishonor role of nations, Assyria occupies first place. In the light of Ezekiel 31, this is not surprising, but it becomes even more understandable when the charge of "spreading terror in the land of the living" is tested in the Assyrian records. (Block 1997-, 225)

Dishonorable and contemptible means a dishonorable place in Sheol at the head of the dishonorable line.

Not only will the Assyrian dynasty cease to exist, and in dishonor they will await judgement, but all of their favorite household gods will be destroyed. "...the judgment Yahweh announces against the Assyrian ruler is the extermination of his family, his gods, and his own life. Assyria is



to be permanently destroyed, cut off without any future. Assuming the text is in order, the implication of Yahweh preparing the grave would appear to underscore the lack of anyone else to perform this task.” (Roberts 1991, 54)

After pointing out the imminent future of Assyria, even though they currently are a major world power, that is coming to a sudden end.

YAHWEH turns back to His people to spread the good news of what it is He has done for them.

Nahum 1:15

“Behold, on the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, Judah, Pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; He is eliminated completely.” (NASB 2020)

As Nahum writes his prophecy, the events in it are all still in the future. Here he gives us a sense of what that future will look like when Judah finds out about what has happened to Assyria.

The first thing we see is a messenger. Since it is his feet that brings the good news, this suggests that the messenger is running.

Whenever a messenger is running, it implies that the message he is carrying is urgent, highly important. Something for the King and as such, the people would be intensely curious of what news it is the messenger was bringing. Remember, they are living in fear, even though Nahum has been providing a good news prophecy to them. Is this that good news or is it bad news. This messenger brings good news. Good news of shalom. Earlier, with Assyria at full power, shalom was not possible, but now, that has been reversed.

Judah is now whole again. The worry and concern Judah had is now gone. Shalom has been announced. As such, now all the festivals and feasts can be celebrated and enjoyed without fear. “The disintegration of the Neo-Assyrian Empire makes Judah whole again, and consequently she is called to celebrate her regular festivals—festivals to honor YHWH and to remind the people of YHWH’s mighty deeds.” (Renz 2021, 103)

With the announcement of Shalom, the message brings completeness to Judah. Health, vitality. Justice per YAHWEH is back in style and the Assyrian way of doing business is history.

It is once again God who remains true to his covenant with his people and is liberating them from the oppression of the Assyrian Empire. This is why they are now summoned to Celebrate [their] festivals and fulfil [their] vows. (Snyman 2020, 28)



It is no accident that one of the more important acts of Josiah's political and religious reform after Assyria's loss of control in the west was the public celebration of the Passover(sic) festival (2 Kings 23:21–25). (Roberts 1991, 54)

God has eliminated the Assyrian threat permanently. This particular wicked one will never again pass through Judah as they have in the past. They are gone.

Assyria is gone, and the law of the Lord has been discovered in the Temple. The stage has been set for Josiah's revival (2 Chronicles 34:14 – 21).

That sets the stage for the next chapter, we have been given some generalities of the coming doom of Nineveh, now we are going to get details.

The amazing thing, this is all written in advance.

Nahum 2:1–2

“The one who scatters has come up against you. Keep watch over the fortress, watch the road; Bind up your waist, summon all your strength. For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though destroyers have laid waste to them And ruined their vines.” (NASB 2020)

The history of Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire was one of taking conquered people and then resettling them elsewhere. What they did to Israel and the exile they subjected them to was simply the way they conducted warfare and then managed an empire. Tough to rebel if you have no idea where you are.

The Lord though points out to them, that now their adversary, the one who is coming against them, intends to do the same thing to them. Why is this level of destruction being threatened? Was this done because of only a few events, or had this become an Assyrian practice?

In his foundational study, Bustenay Oded counted 157 mass deportations mentioned in Assyrian texts—often royal inscriptions but also letters and administrative documents. The practice was attested as early as Assur-dan II but became much more frequent with the reign of Tiglath-pileser III, who carried out at least 37 such population movements. (Hays and Machinist 2016, 63)

When Assyria did this to Israel, God took note.

So, God through Nahum, is announcing the fall of a major superpower, one that would disappear off the face of the planet never to reappear. “When God announced the fall of even the most seemingly impregnable superpower, an enemy of overwhelming superiority, his word was accomplished fully and swiftly. Here is a great reminder to us of the sovereignty of God and



his almighty power. God will prevail against all who oppose him and his people.” (Pakula 2014, 36-37)

The intent of this attacker is to do to Assyria what they did to everyone else. This event is so certain that God issues four imperatives to the Assyrian people because the attack is imminent. They need to set up effective LP/OP points over the fortress as well as over all of the approach avenues. They are to set up effective guards and provide for an active defense of the fortress and the city.

The pending attack is so certain that they must be dressed and ready for battle. This is not a standby we think they are coming situation; we see the dust in the distance, and they are almost here. Battle stations.

On top of all of that, they are to make strong the defense and their own armaments. Assyria needs to take this attack seriously, the enemy intends to show no mercy and has the offensive capability to do what they want, especially since the Lord is behind the attack.

The bottom line, Nahum has provided the warning to Assyria. What will they do with it? God is clearly addressing them like they are some geopolitical lightweight.

Before Nahum addresses that, he has another thing to say about Judah and what the Lord will do for them once Assyria is gone.

Nahum 2:2

“For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though destroyers have laid waste to them And ruined their vines.” (NASB 2020)

God intends to save His people from the oppression of Assyria. He intends to restore the land and the people.

Yahweh is about to restore the pride of Jacob, which has been ravaged by plunderers, and therefore Assyria should take warning, because these plunderers came from Assyria, and the restoration of Jacob can only be effected through the destruction of Assyria. (Roberts 1991, 64)

The destroyers referenced here are the Assyrians. Not only have they conducted multiple invasions into the land and taken people away into exile, but they have also extracted money and goods as well. We too deal with destroyers who want to oppress us.

The fact is, all people, young and old, male and female, belong to one of two kingdoms: the kingdom of light or the kingdom of darkness. If one is not “in Christ” one is “in the power of the devil,” even if there is no visible, sensible awareness of being in the devil’s grip. Thus, not to serve God is to serve Satan whether one is conscious of it or not. (Storms 2006)



All of us came out of that world and as we become more like Christ, we discover just how faithful He is. We are seeing it demonstrated with the people of Judah here in Nahum.

2 Timothy 2:13

“If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, since he cannot deny himself.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Judah was unfaithful and they were disciplined for that and now they are being restored. As believers, we too, at times, resist as we are becoming more like Him. Sanctification can be tough and sometimes there are things, He wants to clean up in our lives, that are strongholds and fortresses.

It could be a simple thing like putting something which is not bad at all, before our relationship with the Lord.

It could be a besetting sin, such as the continuing problem Judah had with idolatry. That is simply putting something ahead of our relationship with the Lord.

It could be a behavior that if left uncontrolled could be destructive to us. Such as gluttony or alcoholism. Eating and drinking are not sinful, but to excess is where the problem is.

He wants to help us have victory over those strongholds. Satan simply wants to keep us bound up where Jesus Christ wants us to be set free. If we resist what He wants to do, we may find ourselves taken to the woodshed.

Hebrews 12:4–11

“After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin. And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, “My child, don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.” As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.” (NLT)

As we realize we need to give that area to the Lord too, in other words repent, we find the discipline ending. As we come back to the Lord, He restores us.



Joel 2:23–27

“Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the LORD your God! For the rain he sends demonstrates his faithfulness. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring. The threshing floors will again be piled high with grain, and the presses will overflow with new wine and olive oil. The LORD says, “I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts, the hopping locusts, the stripping locusts, and the cutting locusts. It was I who sent this great destroying army against you. Once again you will have all the food you want, and you will praise the LORD your God, who does these miracles for you. Never again will my people be disgraced. Then you will know that I am among my people Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and there is no other. Never again will my people be disgraced.” (NLT)

As we learned in our study of Joel, restoration is a reflection of God’s heart for His people. He indeed wants the best for us, we are the ones who at times, think we might have a better idea. Judah thought that as well and that is why Nahum comes back again to what the Lord is doing for Judah.

Nahum 2:2

“For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though destroyers have laid waste to them And ruined their vines.” (NASB 2020)

This is a promise for the Lord to restore the whole of Israel. The term “splendor of Jacob” does not point to just a partial restoration of Judah, but of the entire nation.

Judah was restored, but only to a point because they still had a sin problem. But there will be a day yet to come when the entire nation will be restored.

The contrast between the eminence or glory of Jacob and that of Israel is not a contrast between the relative majesty of the northern and southern kingdoms. Instead, the contrast is between the time of Israel’s glory under the united monarchy and the time of the nation’s humiliation as it passed through God’s judgments, leaving Judah alone intact. Nahum envisions a day in which the same kind of transformation worked in the patriarch Jacob shall characterize the nation as a whole. (Robertson 1990, 87)

For us today, as we struggle with the enemy, we must remember that He never leaves us, ever.

He wants us to be in relationship with Him and that is why He has provided for us 1 John 1:9.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)



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