

The Comfort of Judgment

The Biblical Theology of Nahum

Book of Nahum; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-4-2018

The Comfort of Judgment

- Nahum was a prophet of Judah.
- Nahum means ‘comfort’!
- Nahum predicted God’s judgment on Assyria.
- This prophecy was given about 660-650 BC.
- This was about 100 years after Jonah.
- Assyria fell to the Medes and Babylonians in 612 BC.
- Assyria was one of the great ancient empires.
- Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC.
- Assyria almost defeated Jerusalem in 701 BC.
- Judah was a vassal of Assyria.
- Assyria was one of the most cruel and ruthless societies in the ancient world.

Divine judgment on evil as seen in His judgment on the nation of Assyria (Nineveh, the capital).

‘Nineveh was a wicked, imperialistic and deceitful metropolis with an arrogant and unscrupulous lust for power and domination manifested in merciless war-mongering. In addition to its military exploits, Nineveh was condemned for its ruthless trade practices and insatiable materialism. – Reformation Study Bible

1. The Fate of the Nations
2. The Fall of Nineveh
3. Assyria’s Downfall – *The Bible Project*

Key Verses: Nahum 1:7-8

Vision of God (Theology Proper)

1. Jealous (1:2)
2. Avenging (1:2)
3. Wrathful (1:2)
4. Slow to anger (1:3)
5. Just (1:3)
6. Angry (1:6)
7. Good (1:7)
8. Against evil (2:13)
9. Uses evil men to judge evil men (3:3)

10. Uses evil men to purify His people (2:2)
11. Uses evil men and punishes their evil (3:19)
12. God of Israel and of all nations (1:3-6)

Exodus 34:6-7; Isaiah 10:14; Isaiah 52:7

Vision of Mankind and Life in a Fallen World

1. God's enemies (1:2)
2. God's people suffer (1:13)
3. Wicked prosper for awhile (2:8)
4. Wicked are judged (2:8)
5. Full of lies, theft and murder (3:1)
6. Full of idolatry (1:14; 3:4)
7. Temporal judgments (3:7)

Vision of Salvation and Christ

1. Taking refuge in God (1:7)
2. Rescue from evil oppressors (1:13)
3. Good news of peace (deliverance from the wicked) (1:15)
4. Rejoicing over God's justice and defeat of evil (3:19)

Christ is the Judge of the nations! (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10) We are not called to be like Christ in His judgment, but to love like Christ now because of His future judgment! (Romans 12:14-21)

Can you be righteous,' asks Traherne, 'unless you be just in rendering to things their due esteem? All things were made to be yours and you were made to prize them according to their value' St. Augustine defines virtue as *ordo amoris*, the ordinate condition of the affections in which every object is accorded that kind of degree of love which is appropriate to it. ...

[Humans] must be trained to feel pleasure, liking, disgust, and hatred at those things which really are pleasant, likeable, disgusting, and hateful.' – CS Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*

Christianity does not want us to reduce by one atom the hatred we feel for cruelty and treachery. We ought to hate them. Not one word of what we have said about them needs to be unsaid. But it does want us to hate them in the same way in which we hate things in ourselves: being sorry that the man should have done such things, and hoping, if it is anyway possible, that somehow, sometime, somewhere he can be cured and made human again. - C. S. Lewis

Whatever God does in judgment, it will be just and in no way contrary to, or diminishing of, His compassion! – Genesis 18:16-33, especially verse 25