



Main Passage: Nahum 1:1-15

Theological Theme

Nahum warned Nineveh of the coming destruction they would face as a punishment for their wickedness. God's people were strengthened by the fact that God has His eyes on both the wicked and the righteous.

Introduction

- ❓ When have you received positive or negative information that would have impacted another person or group of people in the opposite way?
- ❓ How does perspective make a difference when receiving the same information?

1. The Setting (Nahum 1:1)

The book of Nahum begins with an introduction to what was coming. The prophet Nahum received an oracle against the city of Nineveh. This message Nahum received was for the people of Nineveh but also had implications for the people of Judah and Israel.

- ❓ How is a Word from God always good news for some and bad news for others?
- ❓ How does the reminder that God will not allow injustice and wickedness to go on forever serve as an encouragement to God's people? How does it motivate us to persevere?
- ❓ Application: Where do you currently need the reminder that God knows what is going on with you (and the world) and will act justly?

2. The Judgment (Nahum 1:2-8)

Nahum began his prophecy with a description of the Lord as a reminder (or introduction) to the people about the character of the One who was bringing the judgment against them. Telling them of who they had sinned against was crucial to how they would receive and respond to the judgment. Knowing the truth about God establishes His authority and right to rule in our lives.

- ❓ How does recognizing God's authority in our lives reorient everything we do? What happens when we fail to recognize His authority as the Assyrians did?

- ❓ Where do you need to be reminded of God's power right now—for the sake of encouragement or challenge?
- ❓ Application: Which description of the Lord in these verses stands out to you most and why?

3. The Result (Nahum 1:9-15)

Nahum made clear that once God acted, it would be swift and complete. The reason trouble would not rise up again was not because the people would have learned their lesson but because this destruction would be total the first time. The reference to tangled, dried thorns described how ripe Nineveh was for judgment. Think about what the comparison would be today for a person, people, or country ripe for the judgment of God. While Christians can be assured that God's judgment has been satisfied in Jesus, it is right for us to continually assess our hearts to be sure we honor Him with our lives.

- ❓ What are some ways we can regularly assess our own spiritual state before the Lord? Why is it important we do, even as those already following Jesus?
- ❓ How did God's decree against Nineveh serve as a reminder of His faithfulness to His people?
- ❓ Application: What practices do we have as a church to regularly put us "in touch" with the Lord? What individual ways do you seek to stay connected to Him?

Conclusion

- ❓ Where do you need the reminder that God will always act on behalf of His people?
- ❓ What are some ways we can encourage one another in this truth as a group?
- ❓ How can you seek a gospel conversation with someone this week by sharing the message of Nahum?