

Nahum 1-3 Jealous for You

(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

Week 3 of our Summer series – Major Point of the Minor Prophets

A)Wed night – THE WHOLE STORY – THE WHOLE BOOK

B)Weekend studies – zeroing in on the MAJOR POINT

C)Week 1 – Hosea – The Valley of trouble is a Door of Hope!

D)God will sometimes allow us to end up in the valley of troubling because it can become a door of hope – we repent and turn back to God

Week two – Jonah – Simple: People matter to God – A)

God's grace on a wicked and rebellious people in Nineveh {Repented – forgiven - revival -

B)ALSO - God's grace on a rebellious and pouting prophet named Jonah

C)This Wednesday – Pastor Rob Nash – teaching through all 3 chapters of the book of Nahum

Today Nahum THE MAJOR POINT –

A)BACKGROUND – Nahum was written in 630BC or about 150 yrs after the message of Jonah. –

SEQUEL

B)It is a sequel to the book of Jonah.

1)Some sequels are great - Star Wars – Jar Jar

C)Rocky 1-3 Great

1)Rocky 4 Ok

2)Rocky 5 – terrible

D)Nahum's sequel to Nineveh is terrible – at least it is not good for them.

True, Nineveh experienced a revival through the ministry of Jonah

A)The problem was the Revival didn't last

B)After a generation or so the Ninevites reverted back to their old ways – even worse

C)God sends Nahum with a message of Judgment and utter destruction upon this city!

1)V.1 introduces us to the author

The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

A)What is an Elkoshite? – Not sure, but you can get a license to hunt them in Nevada

B)Nahum means Comforter – which is interesting to me because his message is not comforting at all.

1)Three chapters of doom and gloom!

C)Did he get the wrong name? Should God have changed his name like Marion Morrison –

1)who was Marion Mitchel Morrison? – John Wayne

D)John Wayne would not have been John Wayne if he were Marion

1)Marion Morrison or John Wayne

E)John Wayne realized at an early point in his career that he needed to change his name - -

1)Marion didn't fit his calling or career.

Nahum – the comforter ? Does that name fit ?

A)Well it all depends on who you are talking to!

B)Nineveh no! – but Judah yes – and we will explain why in our study today.

C)Verses 2-3 give us the Major point:

The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies. The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. (1:2,3)

D)Nahum tells us three important points about God.

1)Break down these three points and then conclude our time by considering 3 lessons we can learn from this story!

The Major point of Nahum

#1 God is a Jealous God! V.2

A)The word Jealous immediately raises negative images in us.

B)Siblings growing up Jealous over the attention the other is getting from a parent

1)Junior High age girls Jealous over some boy

C)Jealousy – petty immature

D)Jealousy in adulthood – Jealous of another person’s life – Ugly

Those are some of the images that come to our minds when we think of Jealousy – Immature, Ugly/ sinful

A)Jealousy is a sin if it means being envious of what others have and wanting to possess it.

B)But Jealousy is a positive trait when it means cherishing what we have and wanting to protect it.

1)A faithful husband and wife are jealous over one another and do everything they can to **keep their relationship exclusive.**

C)“Jealous” and “zealous” come from the same root, for when you’re jealous over someone, you’re zealous to protect the relationship.

D)As parents you are Jealous and Zealous for your kids – **Mama bear comes out** – wow

As a Father: If someone were to attack a member of your family, would you rise up and defend that family member?

A)Sure you would. You would fight for that family member with all the energy you had.

B)Why do we act this way? It is because you are jealous for those you love.

1)Aaron Big brother to the little boy who broke Amanda’s heart – glad – boys are bad

C)Well - God is jealous over His glory, His name, and His people.

D)When Nahum talks about God being jealous and avenging, he is telling us that God cares passionately about His people and will defend them fully.

#2 God is an Avenging God – the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains His wrath against His enemies.

A)We are told the Lord will judge those who oppose Him and His people

B)This really flows from the idea that God is passionate about defending His people and that which is good and true.

C)But A lot of people find the idea of God’s vengeance hard to deal with!

D)They believe God’s love makes vengeance impossible.

E)God will forgive everyone – there is no judgment – no Hell - only consequences in this life for our actions

Think about it this way:

A)What if God were the Governor of our state decided to be merciful and release all the criminals to run amok in society?

B)Is that merciful or is that cruelty to the decent law abiding people in our state?

1)Governor Brown would most likely be booted out of office.

C)That would not be right – it would not be justice it would not be loving!

D) The point is that mercy and judgment are not contradictory; they are complimentary.

1)God’s love for truth, goodness, and His people requires that He eliminate those things that threaten these things.

E)God will avenge his NAME – HIS GLORY AND HIS PEOPLE

#1 God is a Jealous God

#2 God is an Avenging God

But here is where it all comes together

#3 God is Slow to Anger. We are told that God never acts in a hasty manner.

A)When we talk about people who are jealous or filled with wrath or vengeance we think of someone who acts impulsively.

B)They strike out They are often out of control.
But that is not the case with God.

1) He is slow to anger.

C)Slow to anger- *because He never smites without first warning.*

Men who are passionate and swift in anger hit you first and explain why afterwards!

A)Not so with God – He always warns first

B)150 yrs before Nahum – God sent Jonah – warning – they repented

1)God forgave.

C)Before the flood – Noah – preacher of righteousness for 120 yrs while building – he was warning!

D)God always gives people time to repent.

1)We saw this demonstrated in the book of Jonah.

God ALWAYS desires to extend mercy.

A)If you study Jonah and Nahum back to back like we are - you see both elements of God's nature.

B)In Jonah we see God's s patience and love. –

1)They heard the message – repented – fasting sackcloth ashes – FORGIVEN – REVIVAL

C)In Nahum we see that patience exhausted.

D)THE REVIVAL DIDN'T LAST –

1)The people of Nineveh and the Assyrians became more wicked than ever

So God Judges Nahum with a Vengeance

A)The prophecy of Nahum is very specific.

B) In fact it is so specific that some believe it had to be written after the destruction. but it wasn't.

1) In the first couple of chapters there are many specific details – Fascinating Pastor Rob Nash/ look at this Wed.

C)At the time Nahum spoke – many surely thought he was crazy.

Nineveh was at the height of their power.

They had just conquered Thebes a prominent city in Egypt.

A)It seemed the Assyrians were unstoppable. Nineveh was a fortress that no one could penetrate.

B)From archaeological study we know that the city was located next to the Tigris River.

1) It was a walled city of about 1800 acres, surrounded by a brick wall almost 8 miles in circumference.

C)The walls were so thick that it is said that they had chariot races on them. X GAMES of their day

Nineveh seemed Mighty and impenetrable!

A)But just as Nahum Prophesied – Nineveh was completely destroyed!

B)The Assyrians were completely wiped out – Case and point – Have you ever met an Assyrian? – No there are none.

C)It took a while – because God is Slow to Anger – He waits hoping people will turn from their sin

1)But there comes a point when God says – Enough is enough – His Vengeance is poured out!

D)This Wed. Pastor Rob Nash will lay out exactly how that happened – it is a fascinating story of events

3 Lessons – 3 Take aways

1st Sin Will Always Be Dealt With

A)A healthy respect for God's nature and character is a good thing.

B)Think of it this way: A person who does not respect the ocean's power can easily drown.

1)The water is beautiful and fun. You may go into the ocean and do some surfing or body surfing

C)But you must always be aware of the ocean's power.

D)You must be aware of the oceans dangers: powerful undertow of the waves.

1)If you take the ocean for granted you may be destroyed by it's power.

The same is true of God.

A)He is our loving Lord. He is our provider, sustainer and friend.

B)But we must never forget that He is also holy and powerful.

1)If we don't we will tend to presume upon His grace.

C)That happens when we willfully sin – thinking – “oh God will forgive me”

D)God disciplines those that He loves – Your sin will find you out!

On a national level we must see that God does judge nations.

A)One of the ways He judges is He will withdraw His blessing from those who rebel against Him. That has happened to this country

B)I can't help but wonder how long God will remain silent toward our country when we defend the right of people to abort children. 56 million

How long will God remain silent – as a nation destroys His design for marriage – Male/Female

A)How long will He remain silent while watching as violence and immorality is promoted in movies, TV, video games and the internet

B)Porn is the leading industry

1)Sex trafficking is a major issue
2)Drugs are destroying lives

B)I don't know the answer to these questions but I know God will not remain silent forever

C)God has already begun to remove his hand of blessing and protection on this country –

1)Judgment could very well be coming

2nd Lesson: God's Mercy Must Be Embraced by Each Generation

A)Just a week ago we looked at the book of Jonah. At that time judgment on Nineveh was averted because of their repentance.

B)This time it will not be averted

1) But Nahum reminds us that faith in the past does not guarantee faith in the present.

C)Listen it doesn't matter that you were on fire for Jesus – 20 yrs ago – Jesus is concerned about today!

D)Parents don't be content that your kids are “good kids” –

1)Pray for them to be Jesus lovers – MODEL THAT FOR THEM!

E)They will be more inclined to be JESUS LOVERS – if they genuinely see that is what you are!

Hear the sober warning. You may have grown up in a Christian home.

A)You may have been raised in the church.

B)But this means nothing unless you personally have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

C) It is not enough to know the words/songs . It is not enough to affirm the facts about Jesus.

1)You and I must believe the words and build our lives on them.

D)Have you personally received Christ as the Lord and Savior of your life?

1)Have you made the faith of your parents your own? You cannot get to Heaven on the coattails of another.

E)God has children but no grandchildren!

3rd lesson: God does not forget His people.

A)This is why the name Nahum or comforter works -

B)The book was written not only to the people of Nineveh, but also to the people of Judah.

C)Throughout the book Nahum declares that God is a refuge for those who trust Him (1:7; 12-13; 15; 2:2).

1)He defends those who hide themselves in Him. **He does not let the evil committed against them go unpunished.**

D)God cares passionately for His people. God is defending His honor, but also His people.

Maybe you feel beaten up by life.

A)Maybe you feel overrun by the army of difficult circumstances.

B)Maybe you feel abandoned by the Lord.

1)The book of Nahum reminds you that the Lord Almighty is your shield. You are not forgotten.

C)Perhaps you have made bad choices. (Haven't we all?)

1) Maybe you have drifted away from the Lord. Maybe you feel that God would be justified in turning away from you.

D)Nahum reminds us that we still have time to turn to Him and discover his forgiveness and grace.

1)I don't know how much time remains . . .but there is time now.

I urge you to search your own heart. If you are not right with God . . . please turn to Him today.

A)Admit your rebellion and your sin. Ask God to make you clean through the death of Christ on your behalf.

B)Jesus went to the Cross – took your punishment

1)Shed His blood – so that you could be cleansed and forgiven

C)His blood applied to your sin – White as SNOW! – Forgiven and forgotten

D)Prodigal – Run to Him as a lost child runs when their parent is found.

Hebrews 12:29

“Our God is a consuming fire” –

A)Fire can be great or deadly – all depends upon your relationship to it

B)Fire place – great, Warms you – Fire in your bedroom not so great

C)The Fire of God's wrath is going to burn this place up eventually

D)God who is a consuming fire – who is Jealous for you – doesn't want to burn you up –

1)He wants to burn bright in your heart!