

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes
10-10-18

Nahum 3

Nineveh's Complete Ruin - Verses 1-8

¹Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage; Her prey never departs.
²The noise of the whip, The noise of the rattling of the wheel, Galloping horses And bounding chariots! ³Horsemen charging, Swords flashing, spears gleaming, Many slain, a mass of corpses, And countless dead bodies—They stumble over the dead bodies! ⁴All because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries. ⁵"Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts; "And I will Lift up your skirts over your face, And show to the nations your nakedness And to the kingdoms your disgrace. ⁶"I will throw filth on you And make you vile, And set you up as a spectacle. ⁷"And it will come about that all who see you Will shrink from you and say, 'Nineveh is devastated! Who will grieve for her?' Where will I seek comforters for you?" ⁸Are you better than No-amon, Which was situated by the waters of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall consisted of the sea? ⁹Ethiopia was her might, And Egypt too, without limits. Put and Lubim were among her helpers. ¹⁰Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also her small children were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound with fetters.

3:4 Nineveh had used its beauty, prestige, and power to seduce other nations. Like a harlot, she had enticed them into false friendships. Then when the other nations relaxed, thinking Assyria was a friend, Assyria destroyed and plundered them. Beautiful and impressive on the outside, Nineveh was vicious and deceitful on the inside. Beneath attractive facades sometimes lie seduction and death. Don't let an institution, company, movement, or person seduce you into lowering your standards or compromising your moral principles.

3:5-6 Nineveh would be publicly exposed, resulting in shame and humiliation. This is just saying that God would not only destroy her, but humiliate her in the process. He would expose her shameful ways as an example of what would happen to others who did such terrible things.

3:8-10 Thebes was a city in Egypt, the previous world power, that had stood in the path of Assyria's expansion in the south. The Assyrians had conquered Thebes 51 years before this prophecy was given. To Judah, surrounded to the north and south by the Assyrian Empire, the situation appeared hopeless. But God said that the same atrocities done in Thebes would happen in Nineveh.

3:8-10 No power on earth can protect us from God's judgment or be a suitable substitute for his power in our lives. Thebes and Assyria put their trust in alliances and military power, but history would show that these were inadequate. Don't insist on learning through personal experience; instead, learn the lessons history has already taught. Put your trust in God above all else.

Past the Point of No Return - Verses 11-19

¹¹ You too will become drunk, You will be hidden. You too will search for a refuge from the enemy. ¹² All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit—When shaken, they fall into the eater's mouth. ¹³ Behold, your people are women in your midst! The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies; Fire consumes your gate bars. ¹⁴ Draw for yourself water for the siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Take hold of the brick mold! ¹⁵ There fire will consume you, The sword will cut you down; It will consume you as the locust does. Multiply yourself like the creeping locust, Multiply yourself like the swarming locust. ¹⁶ You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven—The creeping locust strips and flies away. ¹⁷ Your guardsmen are like the swarming locust. Your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers Settling in the stone walls on a cold day. The sun rises and they flee, And the place where they are is not known. ¹⁸ Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; Your nobles are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains And there is no one to regather them. ¹⁹ There is no relief for your breakdown, Your wound is incurable. All who hear about you Will clap *their* hands over you, For on whom has not your evil passed continually?

3:19 All the nations hated to be ruled by the merciless Assyrians, but the nations also wanted to be just like Assyria—powerful, wealthy, prestigious—and they courted Assyria's friendship. In the same way, we don't like the idea of being ruled harshly, so we do what we can to stay on good terms with a powerful leader. And deep down, we would like to have that kind of power. The thought of being on top can be captivating. But power is seductive, so we should not scheme to get it or hold on to it. Those who lust after power will be powerfully destroyed, as the mighty Assyrian Empire soon discovered.

The Bottom Line: Jesus is coming back. Times are getting tougher. While I don't personally believe that the Church will experience the tribulation (the period of God's wrath against the world), we can still expect things to become more difficult for Christians in the days ahead, leading up to that period. The world is becoming more distrusting and antagonistic to things 'Christian' and we cannot expect this to become better if we believe and understand Bible prophecy.

Yet at the same time the Christian should have the greatest hope and expectation of all... For God has an amazing plan! The darkness is for a limited time and the night will be replaced by the dawn of a new day. It will be a day in which righteousness rules, for the King of Righteousness will return to reclaim His kingdom! Habakkuk saw it all and recorded it for us. And the God who strengthened Habakkuk will do the same for us.