

Nahum: God's Power Over Sin and Satan

Nahum 1:11-15

A)	YAHWEH, LIKE A TERRIBLE FORCE OF NATURE, AVENGES HIS ENEMIES BUT IS GOOD TO THOSE WHO TRUST HIM	(1:2-10)
B)	YAHWEH WILL DESTROY NINEVEH BUT RESTORE JUDAH	(1:11-15)
C)	VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE ATTACK UPON NINEVEH	(2:1-10)
D)	LAMENT OVER FALL OF NINEVEH, THE LION'S DEN	(2:11-13)
C ¹)	VIVID DESCRIPTION OF THE LOOTING OF NINEVEH	(3:1-7)
B ¹)	NINEVEH WILL BE DESTROYED, IT IS VULNERABLE, LIKE THEBES	(3:8-13)
A ¹)	NINEVEH, LIKENED TO A DESTRUCTIVE FORCE OF NATURE, WILL BE DESTROYED	(3:14-19)

B) YAHWEH WILL DESTROY NINEVEH BUT RESTORE JUDAH (1:11-15 ESV)

a) Wicked Assyria Plots Evil Against Yahweh

/From you came one / who plotted evil against the Lord, / a worthless counselor. /

SENNACHERIB and The Devil

- You are of your father the devil, and your will is 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 out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44 ESV)
- Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11 ESV)
- and give no opportunity to the devil. (Ephesians 4:27 ESV)
- He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:6 ESV)
- Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. (1 Timothy 3:7 ESV)
- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 ESV)
- Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8 ESV)

b) Assyria Will Perish

Thus says the Lord, /

“Though they are at full strength and many, / they will be cut down and pass away. /

c) Judah Will No Longer Be Afflicted By Yahweh

Though I have afflicted you, / I will afflict you no more. /

d) Yahweh Will Free Judah From Assyria

And now I will break his yoke from off you / and will burst your bonds apart.” /

c¹) Assyria Will No Longer Prosper

The Lord has given commandment about you: / “No more shall your name be perpetuated; /

from the house of your gods I will cut off / the carved image and the metal image. /

I will make your grave, for you are vile.” /

The Destruction of Satan

- I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head,** and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15 ESV)
- They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him **out of the tombs** a man with an **unclean spirit**. He lived among the **tombs**. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, for he had often been **bound with shackles and chains**, but he wrenched the chains apart, and **he broke the shackles** in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always **crying out and cutting himself with stones**. And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and **fell down before him**. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, **do not torment me.**” For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “**My name is Legion**, for we are many.” And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about **two thousand**, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and **drowned in the sea**. (Mark 5:1-13 ESV)
- Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because **he knows that his time is short!**” (Revelation 12:12 ESV)
- and the devil who had deceived them was **thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur** where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:10 ESV)

b¹) Judah Will Be Restored

Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him / who brings good news, / who publishes peace! /

Isaiah

- **How beautiful upon the mountains / are the feet of him who brings good news,**
- **who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, / who publishes salvation, / who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”**
- The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; / together they sing for joy;
- for eye to eye they see / the return of the LORD to Zion. (Isaiah 52:7-8 ESV)
- He was despised and **rejected** by men, / a man of **sorrows** and acquainted with **grief**;
- and as one from whom men hide their faces / he was **despised**, and we esteemed him not.
- Surely he has borne our **griefs** / and carried our **sorrows**;
- yet we esteemed him **stricken**, / **smitten** by God, and **afflicted**.
- But he was **pierced** for our **transgressions**; / he was **crushed** for our **iniquities**;
- **upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace**, / and with his **wounds** we are healed.
- All we like sheep have gone astray; / we have turned—every one—to his own way;
- and the LORD has laid on him / the **iniquity** of us all.
- He was **oppressed**, and he was **afflicted**, / yet he opened not his mouth;
- like a **lamb that is led to the slaughter**, / **and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent**, / **so he opened not his mouth**.
- By **oppression** and **judgment** he was taken away; / and as for his generation, who considered
- that **he was cut off out of the land of the living**, / **stricken** for the **transgression** of my people?
- **And they made his grave with the wicked** / and with a rich man in his death,
- although he had done no violence, / and there was no deceit in his mouth.
- Yet it was the will of the LORD to **crush him**; / **he has put him to grief**;
- when his soul makes an offering for guilt, / he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
- the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- Out of the **anguish** of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
- by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, / make many to be accounted righteous, / and he shall bear their iniquities.
- Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, / and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
- because he **poured out** his soul to death / and was numbered with the **transgressors**;
- yet he bore the **sin** of many, / and makes intercession for the **transgressors**. (Isaiah 53:3-12 ESV)

Romans

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, **therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5:1-11 ESV)

Keep your feasts, O Judah; / fulfill your vows, /

JOSIAH'S REPENTANCE AND REFORMS (640-609 BC)

1. **COVENANT RENEWED:** And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.
2. **BURNS IDOLS OF BAAL:** And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel.
3. **DEPOSED FALSE PRIESTS:** And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens.
4. **BURNED THE ASHERAH:** And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people.
5. **BROKE THE HOUSES OF MALE PROSTITUTES:** And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah.
6. **DEFILED THE HIGH PLACES OF THE FALSE PRIESTS:** And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba.
7. **BROKE DOWN HIGH PLACES AT THE GATES:** And he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city. However, the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers.
8. **DEFILED THE ALTARS OF CHILD SACRIFICES:** And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.
9. **RID ANIMALS DEDICATED TO FALSE GODS:** And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the precincts.
10. **BURNED CHARIOTS DEDICATED TO FALSE GODS:** And he burned the chariots of the sun with fire.
11. **DESTROYED FALSE ALTARS TO OTHER GODS:** And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down and broke in pieces and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.
12. **DEFILED HIGH PLACES:** And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men.
13. **NED THE ASHERAH:** Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, that altar with the high place he pulled down and burned, reducing it to dust. He also burned the Asherah.
14. **DEFILED THE FALSE ALTARS:** And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar and defiled it, according to the word of the LORD that the man of God proclaimed, who had predicted these things.
15. **HONORED THE DEAD BODY OF A TRUE PROPHET:** Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" And the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel." And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria.

16. **REMOVED FALSE SHRINES TO OTHER GODS:** And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel.
17. **REGAIN LAND FROM ASSYRIA IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM:** And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel.
18. **SACRIFICED FALSE PRIESTS:** And he sacrificed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.
19. **REINSTITUTED THE PASSOVER:** And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.
20. **PUT AWAY ALL MEDIUMS AND FALSE GODS:** Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem,
21. **ESTABLISHED THE WORDS OF THE LAW:** that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

RESULT: Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him.

JUDGMENT ON JUDAH BECAUSE OF THE SINS OF MANASSEH: Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

Romans

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:1-14 ESV)

a¹) **Wicked Assyria Will Invade Judah No More**

for never again shall the worthless pass through you; / he is utterly cut off. /

Romans

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. (Romans 8:31-39 ESV)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-3 ESV)