

Nahum

Nahum: Comforter

Four things to remember about God as you go through Nahum and Zephaniah:

- 1) God is Creator over all
- 2) God has control over all His creation
- 3) God has authority over all He controls
- 4) God is present with all His creation.

Context

Where: Nineveh, (where Jonah was sent). Nineveh was rebellious and full of sin, which is why God sent Jonah there. Nineveh is the capital of Assyria and the Assyrian's are threatening to attack God's people in Judah.

When: It's been 125 years since Jonah came to prophesy and they repented, which puts Nahum taking place in 7th century BC. Since then Nineveh has returned to being full of sin including causing oppression and brutality to God's people. This is about 100 years before the Southern Kingdom was taken into exile, and during the height of the Assyrians' power. The Assyrians continue to threaten God's people, as there are rumors of another great power rising in the east, Babylon.

What: God's people in Judah are surrounded by enemies. The people are full of fear.

Major Theme

-God Protects His People

-The book of Nahum is about God's wrath towards His enemies and His love towards His people.

-God righteously, enthusiastically, demonstrably destroys his enemies, who have abused his cherished people.



Outline

Part 1: Yahweh will Protect His People (Nahum 1:2-11)

-The imagery in Nahum can be compared to God's rescue of His people in Exodus.

-Establishes God's control and authority over all nature unlike the false gods of nature the Assyrians worshipped.

Part 2: God's Threatened Judgement (Nahum 1:12- 2:12)

-God's grace towards His people is intertwined with His judgement towards His enemies.

Part 3: God's Judgement Enacted (Nahum 2:13-3)

-God not bringing judgement to His enemies would go against His character.

Zephaniah

Zephaniah: Yahweh Hides

Context

Where/When: Zephaniah is prophesying to Judah in late 7th century BC, a few years before Habakkuk.

What: Assyria is no longer a threat, their threat is their own sins. God's patience has run out for Judah, judgement is coming, but God will give a final mercy.

Major Theme

-The Day of the Lord.

-God has the authority to control His creation.

-God has always had a plan for salvation.

Outline

-Part 1: God's destruction on Judah (Zephaniah 1)

-God is active and powerful.

-Part 2: God's destruction on the nations (Zephaniah 2-3:7)

-God's judgement on His enemies means hope for His people.

-Part 3: God's salvation for His remnant (Zephaniah 3:8-3:20)

-God's judgement brings change.



Takeaways

- Nahum and Zephaniah display God's control and authority over all His creation.
- Because of God's presence with His creation He is able to protect and judge His people.
- God's judgement displays His goodness, which should call us to repentance.

