

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont, Texas
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Rev. Samuel O. Simon
Lesson #4 December 21, 2021, to December 26, 2021

Unit I: GOD Requires Justice
Subject: The Consequences of Justice
Text: Nahum 1: 1-3, 6-8, 12-13, 15

Key Verse:

“God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies (Nahum 1: 2, KJV).”

Key Terms:

- 1) Jealous – Hebrew: qanno (kan-no’): to be jealous or angry.
- 2) Nineveh – Hebrew: Nineveh (nee-nevay’): the capital of Assyria.
- 3) Yoke – Hebrew: mot (mote): a bar, pole.

Pointers:

- 1) A Jealous GOD (Nahum 1: 1-3a)
- 2) No Escape (Nahum 1: 3b, 6-8)
- 3) Condemnation and Vindication (Nahum 1: 12-13, 15)

Introduction:

The question that all of us are asking during an upsurge of blatant racism, moral dysfunction, and a pandemic crisis in the world and in our communities, is how long will those who do evil and oppress others remain to go unpunished, and how long will the pandemic last? Some maybe thinking, why does it seem as if GOD is silent and allow evil to continue to allow HIS people to suffer? Well, glad you asked, God is not weak, but HE is long-suffering and patient, and HIS desire is that people repent. 2 Peter 3: 9 says, “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” When we reflect on GOD’S Word it reveals that HE (GOD) will allow no one to escape HIS divine judgment when we continue to do evil (Read Isaiah 13: 11). So, how long will this go on, is in GOD’S Mighty hands, and in HIS own timing; GOD will answer.

Lesson Pointers: #1

- **A Jealous GOD (Nahum 1: 1-3a):**

Now the book of Nahum was an oracle against Nineveh. As an oracle it was a burden (Nahum 1: 1a). Now an oracle is a message directly from GOD that foretells disaster and destruction that would come, in this case of Nineveh. You can also read Isaiah 13: 1-6 whereby GOD’S message of the destruction and disaster that would come unto Babylon.

Just as GOD chose Isaiah to be HIS messenger for the burden of Babylon, GOD chose Nahum to be HIS messenger for the burden of Nineveh (Nahum 1: 1b). The LORD GOD is righteous in relation to HIS covenant people and in relation to their wicked oppressors. Now, as a righteous GOD, HE is jealous, that is, zealous to protect what belongs to HIM (Nahum 1: 2) Also, read Deuteronomy 6: 15. God's jealous anger is long-suffering, tempered with patient and mercy, but does not allow evil to go unpunished (Nahum 1: 3a). The LORD GOD had given Nineveh the span of an entire century to repent, and The LORD GOD is giving us the span of our lifetime to repent and return unto HIM (GOD). This was a message or prediction of hope for Judah and good news for all believers now. Nahum's message from The LORD GOD provides assurance that The LORD GOD will execute judgment on those who refuse to repent from their evil, and The LORD GOD will vindicate the righteous.

The Consequences of Justice!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **No Escape (Nahum 1: 3b, 6-8):**

Now, do know, that it is futile in trying to escape from THE LORD GOD'S wrath. Nahum describes The LORD GOD'S ability to punish Nineveh by emphasizing The LORD GOD'S control over nature. Nahum said that The LORD GOD'S impending destruction of Nineveh was that of whirlwinds and storms that The LORD GOD causes in nature (Nahum 1: 3b). With this, Nahum concluded that, no one can or will escape The LORD GOD'S punishment for evil because of The LORD GOD awesome power and holy character and righteousness (Nahum 1: 6). Now, unto those who trust The LORD GOD, HE is justifiably angry toward our opposers but faithful and merciful and protective toward those who trust HIM (Nahum 1: 7). You see, Nineveh trusted in their fortified city, but it and they would experience judgment like and overwhelming flood (Nahum 1: 8).

The Consequences of Justice!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Condemnation and Vindication (Nahum 1; 12-13, 15):**

The Ninevites continue to plot against the city Jerusalem, but their plots were not against the city but against The LORD GOD and it was doomed to failure because the Ninevites end came before they could launch another attack (read Nahum 1: 9-11). The nugget here is that when you go against The LORD GOD'S Word, do know that you are going against The LORD GOD HIMSELF, and your plot is doomed for failure. So, Nahum proclaimed the promise with the guarantee that it would be fulfilled by saying, "Thus saith the LORD," Despite the city population and its fortified position of protection. The LORD GOD promised it would be defeated, disposal, and removal of Judah's yoke of oppression (Nahum 1: 12-13). When The LORD GOD makes a promise, it will be accomplished (Isaiah 55: 11 says, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it."

Nineveh was so completely wiped out that its ruins were not identified until the year of 1845. Nineveh was destroyed and never rebuilt, just as Nahum said (Nahum 1: 15). The LORD GOD'S promise is sure, you can count on it, The LORD GOD said it, so, be it, believe it, and wait on it, for it is surely to come. Jesus Christ's death on the Cross defeated Satan and broke his yoke of sin once and for all. This gives believers hope that The LORD GOD will triumph over injustice and unrighteousness, and condemn evil, and vindicate them whose faith is in Jesus Christ our LORD and Savior.

The Consequences of Justice!

Nuggets of the Lesson:

- 1) The LORD GOD will execute judgment on those who refuse to repent from their evil.**
- 2) The LORD GOD will vindicate the righteous.**
- 3) It is futile to try and escape from The LORD GOD'S wrath.**
- 4) When you go against The LORD GOD'S Word, do know, that you are going against The LORD GOD HIMSELF.**
- 5) When one sin, there will be consequences for that sin.**

The Consequences of Justice!