

Mid-Week Recharge Minor Prophets Study

Nahum

Pastor Pat McElroy

Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee

Section #1: Chapter 1:1-8

Book Theme: **Praise God; The Heavenly Warrior**

Section Theme: ***Praise God; The Divine Warrior***

Class Agenda

Prayer

Nahum background

- Identity and location of the prophet
- Historical Nineveh and its fall
- Contemporary prophets of Nahum: Zephaniah, Jeremiah and possibly Habakkuk

Sub-Section #1: God's character

NIV Text:

1 An oracle concerning Nineveh.

The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

2 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.

3a The LORD is slow to anger and great in power;

The LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.

Content questions:

- What does Nahum's name mean? Where might he be from?
- List the attributes of God that are highlighted in verses 2-3a.
- Upon whom is the vengeance of God directed?

Discussion questions:

- What motivates God's vengeance according to this section?
- How do all of these attributes fit together?
- How would you respond to someone who said, "This is just the Old Testament God. I don't believe in this. I believe in Jesus. God is love."?

Sub Section #2: God's ways

NIV Text:

3b His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,

And clouds are the dust of His feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up;

He makes all the rivers run dry.

Bashan and Carmel wither

And the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

5 The mountains quake before Him

And the hills melt away.

The earth trembles at His presence,

The world and all who live in it.

6 Who can withstand His indignation?

Who can endure His fierce anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire;

The rocks are shattered before Him.

Content questions:

- According to this section, how does creation react when God steps into it?
- According to this section, who causes these things to happen to creation?
- What is the implied answer to the questions in verse 6a?
- What attribute of God is being emphasized in this section?

Discussion questions:

- How does it make you feel that Scripture describes God as wrathful and all-powerful simultaneously?
- If Nineveh is the most powerful city of its day at the time, will it have a chance against this God? Why or why not?

Sub-Section #3: God's vindication

7 The LORD is good,

A refuge in times of trouble.

He cares for those who trust in Him,

8 but with an overwhelming flood He will make an end of *Nineveh*;

He will pursue his foes into darkness.

Content questions:

- Describe the contrast between verses 7 and 8.
- For whom is the Lord a refuge in times of trouble?
- Whom will the Lord punish?

Discussion questions:

- How do you fit verses 7 and 8 together with verses 1-3a?
- How much good will wealth, fame, or earthly power do anyone in the end? How much do we rely on them now?

Related passages: Exodus 19:18, 20:5, 34:7, Deuteronomy 32:41, 2 Samuel 22:16, 1 Kings 19:11, Psalm 1:6, 22:9, 94:1, 104:3, 130:3, Isaiah 33:9, Jeremiah 10:10, 33:11, Daniel 9:26, Joel 2:10, Micah 1:4, Malachi 3:2.