

Mid-Week Recharge Minor Prophets Study

Nahum

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Section #4: Chapter 3:1-3:19

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

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

Class Agenda

Prayer

Review Nahum background

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

Review 1:1-2:13

Sub Section #1: The Real Cause of Nineveh's Debauchery

NIV Text:

1 Woe to the city of blood,

Full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!

2 The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots!

3 Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears!

Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses--

4 all because of the wanton lust of a harlot, alluring, the mistress of sorceries,

Who enslaved nations by her prostitution

And peoples by her witchcraft.

5 "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty.

"I will lift your skirts over your face.

I will show the nations your nakedness

And the kingdoms your shame.

6 I will pelt you with filth,

I will treat you with contempt

And make you a spectacle.

7 All who see you will flee from you and say,

'Nineveh is in ruins--who will mourn for her?'

Where can I find anyone to comfort you?"

Content questions:

- Describe the city of Nineveh in verses 1-3.
- What is the cause of this picture of Nineveh in verse 4?
- Where does God stand in regard to Nineveh's sin and how will He respond based on verses 5-7?

Discussion questions:

- How does God feel about sin?
- How does God respond to sin?
- How does the *mistress of sorceries* operate today?

Sub Section #2: The Danger of Earthly Comparisons

NIV Text:

8 Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile, with water around her?

The river was her defense, the waters her wall.

9 Cush and Egypt were her boundless strength;

Put and Libya were among her allies.

10 Yet she was taken captive

And went into exile.

Her infants were dashed to pieces at the head of every street.

Lots were cast for her nobles,

And all her great men were put in chains.

Content questions:

- What is the implied answer to the question posed in verse 8? How might the Ninevites have answered it based on everything we have seen from their attitude so far?
- What happened to Egypt according to this passage?

Discussion questions:

- What is the danger in comparing ourselves to earthly standards?
- Who is great? What is greatness? How long does it last?

Sub Section #4: The Futility of Nineveh to Save Herself

NIV Text:

11 You too will become drunk;

You will go into hiding

And seek refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortresses are like fig trees with their first ripe fruit;

When they are shaken, the figs fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Look at your troops-- they are all women!

The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies;

Fire has consumed their bars.

14 Draw water for the siege,

Strengthen your defenses!

Work the clay,

Tread the mortar,

Repair the brickwork!

15 There the fire will devour you;

The sword will cut you down

And, like grasshoppers, consume you.

Content questions:

- Describe the imagery in verse 11.
- Describe the imagery in verse 12. How is it related to verse 11?
- What does the first line of verse 13 suggest about the ability of Nineveh to mount a defense?
- Describe the futility of the actions in verses 13 and 14.
- What will be Nineveh's fate according to verse 15?

Discussion questions:

- How long would you engage a battle that you knew you were going to lose?

Sub Section #5: The Scattering of Nineveh

NIV Text:

15c Multiply like grasshoppers,

Multiply like locusts!

16 You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more than the stars of the sky,
But like locusts they strip the land and then fly away.

17 Your guards are like locusts,

Your officials like swarms of locusts that settle in the walls on a cold day—

But when the sun appears they fly away,

And no one knows where.

18 O king of Assyria, your shepherds slumber;

Your nobles lie down to rest.

Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them.

19 Nothing can heal your wound;

Your injury is fatal.

Everyone who hears the news about you claps his hands at your fall,

For who has not felt your endless cruelty?

Content questions:

- What will the exodus of the Ninevites be like according to verses 15-17?
- What will become of the merchants, shepherds, nobles, guards and people according to this section?
- Will Nineveh ever rise again according to verse 19?
- What is the reason given for this fate in verse 19?

Discussion questions:

- Have you ever been to a ghost town? What did it feel like? How secure do you suppose the people felt during the boom time of those towns? Do you think they saw their end coming?
- Deserting a town is one thing. How do you think you would react to being conquered by a foreign power?

Related passages: 1 Samuel 2:30, 1 Kings 22:17, 2 Kings 19:35, 2 Chronicles 12:3, 32:4, Job 9:31, 27:23, Psalm 76:5-6, Isaiah 2:10, 13:16, 14:16, 19:6-9, 20:4, 23:17, 28:4, 34:3, 45:2, 47:3 and 9, 49:26, 51:19, 56:10, Jeremiah 13:22, 15:5, 30:13, 46:25, 50:37, 51:27 and 37, Lamentations 2:15, Ezekiel 16:25-29, 22:2, 27:10, 30:5, Hosea 13:16, Joel 1:4, Amos 6:2, Micah 1:9, 3:10, Zephaniah 2:15