

## Nahum

### The Lord's Anger Against Nineveh (Chp 1)

- Unlike many of the other prophets, Nahum is speaking from a vision he received from the Lord.
- The Book of Nahum is a prophecy directed towards Judah and against Nineveh.
- Assyria has overthrown the Northern Kingdom and is now threatening Judah.
- Nahum = Comforter.
- Historically, the Book of Nahum was written shortly before the fall of Nineveh around 612 BC. Nineveh repented with Jonah's prophecy sometime between 782 and 753 BC.
- This means that Nineveh's repentance probably lasted less than 100 years.
- Nineveh, the capitol of Assyria, was overthrown by the Medes and Babylonians.

The Lord...

- is a jealous and avenging God
- takes vengeance on his foes
- is slow to anger, but great in power
- will not leave the guilty unpunished
- is in the whirlwind and storm
- is good and a refuge in times of trouble
- cares for those who trust in him

## Habakkuk The Complaining Prophet

### Habakkuk's First Complaint (1:1-4)

- Habakkuk prophesied to Judah during the reign of Jehoiakim around 609-604 BC.
- Jehoiakim was a particularly evil king.
- 605 BC saw the first of several invasions by Babylon. Jerusalem fell in 586 BC.
- The theme of the book: "Why is God allowing these bad things to happen?"
- How long, Lord, must I call for help but you do not listen?
- I cry violence but you do not save me.
- Where is the justice? The law is paralyzed.

### God's Answer (1:5-11)

- Hang in there. Be patient. Watch. I am going to do something BIG!

- God says he is going to raise up the Babylonians to destroy the Assyrians.
- Lesson: God can, and does use pagan nations to achieve his purposes.

### **Habakkuk's Second Complaint (1:12-2:1)**

- Lord, why do you tolerate wrongdoing and the treacherous?
- Why are you silent while the wicked thrive?
- Will the wicked continue to persecute the innocent and thrive while the innocent suffer?
- Habakkuk will stand watch and wait for the Lord to act.

### **God's Answer (2:2-20)**

- "At the appointed time...". God will act and bring justice in his time.
- Lesson: God's time isn't always our time.
- Lesson #2: Even when it seems God is distant, not listening, or not active, he is working in the background in ways we can't see.
- "The Lord is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

### **Habakkuk's Prayer (Chp 3)**

- Notice the difference between Jonah and Habakkuk. Both prophets doubted God. Jonah fled in disobedience. While Habakkuk questioned God, he turned to God, rather than run from God.
- Though he is confused about why God is delaying his justice, he remains confident the Lord will come through in God's time and in God's way.
- "I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us."

No matter how bad it gets I will...

- I will rejoice in the Lord
- I will be joyful in my God, my Savior
- find my strength in the Lord
- be fleet like a deer and climb the heights
- Habakkuk reminds us that no place is too dark and no wall too thick for God's grace to penetrate in a powerful and life-affirming way.