

Nahum Chapter 1 A Prophesy of the End of Time

1 The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. 2 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. 3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. 4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. 5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. 6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. 7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. 8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. 9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. 10 For while they be folded together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. 11 There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor. 12 Thus saith the LORD; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. 13 For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder. 14 And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile. 15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: burden by definition means: an utterance, chiefly of doom; this definition is clearly seen and pointed out by this chapter of scripture.

Nineveh is; the same city to which Jonah preached the message "**Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.**" about 100 years before. At that time, by demand of their king; they all put on sackcloth and ashes, repented, and mourned, for their sin before God; who saw their true repentance and did not, at that time, destroy Nineveh. Thus we see, God controlling his anger, and wrath, to the extent, He waited another 100 years before the prophesied destruction of Nineveh came.

God is prophesying to Nineveh, 100 years ago you repented and now you have forgotten, or just cast it aside, the message that I sent to Nineveh at that time. I once gave you mercy in abundance and saved many souls, but now, that time is past with your continued rejection of me, the one true and living God. Now, my judicial wrath will be poured forth upon those who reject me, and fail to humble themselves in obedience to me.

The prophesy against Nineveh is a prophetic picture; of the prophesy of the destruction of the heaven and earth. We would point out here; God's anger and fury is not like ours in nature. When we get angry, we often lose control of ourselves, and do and say things, we would never do or say if that anger was controlled. God's anger is controlled; as we can see here. Nineveh was warned about 100 years ago of their destruction unless they repented and turned to God with their whole hearts and lives, which they did at that time. However, soon after they were spared; they went right back to their old ways, and if anything, they were worse than before. Before; they may not have known of the ways of God. Now, they have no excuse for God sent them a messenger long ago.

We know that the anger of God is controlled for He made a distinction between his people and the Egyptians. We know His power is great; for He divided the sea, and the river Jordan, and Israel crossed on dry ground in the midst thereof. However, right behind them, in their passage through the sea, God's great power saved Israel from the destructive power of the waters as they swallowed up the

Egyptians. God led Israel, by day with a pillar of cloud, and by night with a pillar of fire. The fire of the Lord was light for Israel that they might travel in the night by the light thereof, and yet God made, the same pillar of fire, a cloud of darkness so the Egyptians could not come near his people.

When God gave the law, the Ten Commandments, He descended upon the mountain in a cloud of fire, and the whole mountain trembled, and burned with fire, yet it was not consumed. These are all evidences of the greatness of God's power and might that we have scriptural proof of.

We are given some hints that this is a prophesy of the end of time such as:

- ***There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor.*** We have here a picture of satan, and his rebellion against God, which began when satan tempted man in the Garden of Eden.
- ***Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.*** Is there recorded in scripture a time, on earth, when man will not be afflicted? Scripture testifies that man will always suffer afflictions, trials, troubles, and tribulations, in this life in time. Thus, we can ascertain that this is a prophesy of the end of time.
- ***For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.*** Only, at the end of time, will satan finally be completely overthrown, when God's people will be eternally loosed from the bondage of sin and satan.

Doesn't this remind you of the scriptures of the end of time? We find in scripture, at the time of the end, there will be some terrible, judicial judgments, and the wrath of God, having long been restrained to bring about God's will and purpose, in the fulness of its fury, will be unleashed.

Re 10:5-7; 5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, 6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: 7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. Scripture certifies that there will be an end of time as we know it.

"3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked:" We see this picture coming to final fruition in: ***Re 20:1-15; 1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and***

great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

When we compare, this Revelation text to the Nahum text, we see the parallels between them stand out plainly. We see in Nahum; God has given Nineveh about 100 years to repent and they have gone farther and farther astray. We see; God began to give warnings to man in the Garden of Eden with "**thou shalt not**", and has not ceased since to warn man of the impending doom of those who refuse to be obedient to God, and yield to his Lordship over them.

Throughout scripture, God has given man the message of the mercy and salvation by grace. Man has had the opportunity to turn to God wholly, and be saved eternally, and has refused steadfastly, with the exception of those whom God has called forth to be his people.

Re 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

What about: "**He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers:**" We find in scripture a time when there will be no sea and the rivers will be dried up: ***Re 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*** We see here the total destruction of the presently existent heaven and earth.

The promise to the obedient is sure, a message of the surety of the believer; and this is a reminder to God's people, of the reason they continue to worship and adore their Saviour and Lord. Again, we see the scripture and sure promise of God displayed in: ***Re 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

This message has a lot of sadness in it, because it speaks of the eternal damnation for those who refuse obedience to God. What affect should this have upon us as Christians? Certainly, we rejoice that God has saved our souls and bodies, but should we just be happy about our own salvation, and not mourn for the unsaved?

- Shouldn't the sadness, of the message of eternal damnation, drive us to our knees, in humble prayer to God, for the extension of his mercy and grace to many others? Especially, for our spouses, children, families, and friends.
- Shouldn't this make us have a greater urge to be salt, and light, to those around us? Not only as encouragement for the saved, but as an example of doing good that others may learn and glorify God.
- Shouldn't this remind us to take time to give thanks, and to praise, and to glorify God, every day for our eternal life in Jesus Christ?

We close with the scripture in: ***Re 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.***

We point out; the inherited "**all things**" are those of the new heaven and earth, not the old heaven and earth that were filled with sin. Praise the Lord for the hope and belief of being in the "**first resurrection.**" Praise the Lord for the finished work of eternal salvation by Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, and the "beloved" Son of God. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

2020-11-28