
QT Questions—for Nahum

(Here's a short introduction to the book of Nahum from my Study Bibles.)

- Nahum shows us that God will bring justice. Oppressors will be punished when God takes vengeance on behalf of the oppressed. He brings judgment not only on His own people, but also on all the nations. In Nahum, we see God's anger toward evil and His desire to rid the world of it. He is the God not only of Israel, but of the whole world—He raises up and throws down nations.
- Nahum's depiction of Nineveh contrasts with the city's portrayal in the book of Jonah, where the people repent and receive mercy. Even though Nahum's prophecies against Nineveh are grim, they come from a God who doesn't anger easily (1:3). Nineveh had been given opportunities to turn from wickedness, but now the time has come for judgment. This judgment amounts to good news for the people of Judah, whom God promises to protect and restore (1:15; 2:2). Judah and all the other nations that had been terrorized by the Assyrians armies cried out for justice, and God granted it. Nahum concludes his oracle with a message to the Assyrians: Everyone who hears of their downfall will applaud (3:19). As we seek justice, we should take comfort in knowing that oppression will not last forever. In the face of overwhelming injustice, God is still a refuge for those who trust in Him (1:7). God hears, and He will deliver.

Nah 1 (5/24/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. To which nation did the Ninevites belong; how were they different here than when Jonah preached there; what does God tell His people here; what do you learn?
- God is described in v. 3, "The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished." This is very clear with the way God dealt with the Ninevites. In Jonah, God's anger was slow, as He sent His servant to preach the good news of their sins destructiveness, and God's mercy, leading them to repentance. But, their humbleness lasted briefly, and they retorted to their evil ways once again. And eventually, the wages of their guilty sinfulness demanded her accountability and judgment pronounced their guilt and thus punishment. Unless all of our sins, not only of those in the past but even in the present and future sins, if they are not all cleansed, then forgiveness falls short and there will be a day of accountability, and the only result is a guilty judgment. So, a temporary relief is only a bandage, when the need is a surgery. So, so grateful that our Lord paid the wages of all of our sins double (Is 40:2), so there cannot ever be the slightest doubt of a short payment for ALL of our sins' debt. The blood of Jesus from His cross is the complete and perfect payment for all of our sins (Eph 1:7). Thank You Jesus for not treating us like the Ninevites. Thank You for adopting us as Your children, and treating us with Your unconditional love.

Nah 2 (5/26/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. What did God decree against Nineveh and how did God describe them and which do you understand; meanwhile, what does God say about Israel and how will that be accomplished; what do you learn?

- In v. 13, we read, “I am against you,” declares the Lord Almighty. ‘I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.’ As powerful the Assyrians were, and as many nations they conquered, including Israel, but now that God was against them, all their strength will go up in smoke; their voices will be silenced, no more roaring, no more boasting. All the uproar of evil from the powerful nations and influential people will be silenced when God decides it's time to be “I am against you.” In our world, we keep thinking that the more powerful weapons win war, that the more powerful people dictate and determine everything. God’s people must learn, we must learn, that they are like the Assyrians. When God permits, for as long as He permits, until He says, “I am against you,” they will appear so powerful, that they may appear to be unconquerable. However, when God determines it’s time, then no one or nothing, however powerful they may have been, their weapons, their strength will all go up in smoke, and they will be heard no more. May we learn to see and read the world, including all the evil the powerful people and nations may do, not as they do or say, but as all to be determined by our Almighty Lord, who alone decides when and where and how long all will last. And when He decides, all things will end as He has decided. Our God is the sovereign God. He alone is God, and no other.

Nah 3 (5/27/25)

(*Please answer the questions as best as you can.)

1. Why was God against the Ninevites (Assyrians); what does God say will be her end; what do you learn about your God; how is this applicable to you?
- God calls Nineveh, “Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!” (v. 1). For all of their long history, for all of their conquests, for all of the great things they accomplished, the way God calls them is sadly frightening, “city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims.” The world would normally call people like them winners, but in God’s eyes, what they deserved was a “woe.” The world might want to celebrate their great victories, but God remembers their evil, the blood they spilled, the lies they told, the plunder they stole, the suffering they caused in so many peoples lives. We live in a world where the standard is very different than God’s. What they celebrate, what they enjoy telling, what they love to grab are not always what God loves. In fact, many times, what God hates, they love, and what God loves, they hate. God’s people living in this world must learn and decide under whose Authority we will lovingly follow. And if we should see that the world’s way is more appealing to us, then we must humbly examine to see if we are God’s child or a citizen of this world. We cannot have two masters. It will always be, one we will love and the other we will hate. We must not believe the lie, that we can serve both. Those are the kinds of lies the Assyrians must have believed. More clearly, we see that a lot in the Israelites. And they were both clearly wrong. God’s word teaches, “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money (or the idols we cling to)” (Matt 6:24). God often shows us the consequences of evil, so that we would learn the frightening fruit we will bear if we should continue to follow their ways. Let’s pray that God’s grace will bless us to learn of His humility, so that we will have only our God as our only Authority, so that His standard alone will be our standard for our lives in this world. Though we are living in this world, may we learn that we do not belong to this world, for our God sent us to be His Ambassador to the nations, to represent and reflect and display His kingdom, our true home. May we always remember to Whom we belong and where we are going, while we live in this temporal world.