

Nahum 2

4-25-02

“Charge!!!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **The Books Theme:** It focuses on the Holy character of God, who cannot allow sin to go unpunished.
 - 1.1.1. Ch.1 Nahum **“Declares”** Nineveh’s fall.
 - Ch.2 Nahum **“Describes”** Nineveh’s fall.
 - Ch.3 Nahum **“Defends”** Nineveh’s fall.
- 1.2. Nahum’s description of ancient warfare is unrivaled.
 - 1.2.1. Many relief’s have been uncovered that depict battles of this time period. (show pictures)
 - 1.2.2. We have here a dramatic picture of the [1] **Invasion** [2] **Battle** [3] **Victory** [4] **Humiliation** {our outline!}

2. **THE INVASION! (1-4)**

- 2.1. (1) The Hebrew Scriptures start ch.2 with 1:15.
 - 2.1.1. (1:15) **Isaiah** uses this for the fall of Babylon – See Is.52:7
 - 2.1.2. **Paul** uses this announcement for us today **“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”** (Rom.10:15)
 - 2.1.2.1. **The person** who brings the message of **hope & victory** is a person w/beautiful feet!
 - 2.1.2.2. As **you** carry the gospel message to the lost, **how would you describe what your spiritual feet look like?**
 - 2.1.2.3. Is your message sprinkled throughout with **“peace”** & **“glad tidings”**? {or, doom & gloom?}
- 2.2. In 612bc the **Medes**(Persia/Iran) & the **Babylonians**(So. Iraq area) united to attack **Nineveh**(No. Iraq area).
- 2.3. (3) Color of their uniforms & shields were **scarlet**.
 - 2.3.1. The shields were copper overlaid which gave them a blood red appearance. Both to project the idea of blood onto their enemies & to protect their own blood stains from being apparent.

- 2.4. (3b) “The chariots come with flaming torches”
- 2.4.1. (NIV) “The metal on the chariots flashes”
- 2.4.2. Charles Feinberg says, “Some war chariots flashed w/steel because **scythes** were fixed at right angles to their axles to form what were called **Scythe-chariots.**”
- 2.4.2.1. Makes the Ben Hur chariot race a kids game!
- 2.4.2.2. *“It was one of the most terrifying weapons of antiquity which cut down all who came against them.”*
- 2.5. (3c) “The spears of pine are brandished” (NIV)
- 2.5.1. Lit. “the cypresses are shaken”
- 2.5.2. The armies w/lances & spears looked like a forest of cypress trees.
- 2.6. (4) I guess this verse was used for years to show “automobiles” were prophesied in scripture. (obviously not speaking of this at all)
- 2.7. **Application: Hear the Lord’s voice even above the noise of war!**
- 2.7.1. **See** the 1b,2a transition.
- 2.7.2. Usually, life **isn’t** quiet; & you can’t **make** life quiet; but you can **go get quiet!**
- 2.7.3. Often, we need to be quiet to hear from the Lord.
- 2.7.4. **How does silence help?** - “Silence makes room for listening; it gives us freedom to observe; it allows me time to think; it provides space to feel; it lets us broaden our awareness; it opens us to the entry of peace; it invites us to know our limitedness...& God’s vastness.”¹
- 2.7.5. **What saith Scripture regarding silence?** – “But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep **silence** before Him.” (Hab.2:20)
- 2.7.6. “Be **still**, and know that I am God;” (Ps.46:10)
- 2.7.7. “Be **silent** in the presence of the Lord GOD; (Zeph.1:7)
- 2.7.8. “Be **silent**, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!” (Zech.2:13)
- 2.7.9. “The LORD will fight for you; you need only to **be still.**” (Ex.14:14)
- 2.7.9.1. “Stop fussing & start trusting!”
- 2.7.9.2. Prov.13:3 “He who **guards his mouth** preserves his life, But he who **opens wide his lips** shall have destruction.”
- 2.7.9.3. When the highway of life gets “**foggy**”...slow down!
- 2.7.9.4. **Silence**, like an **onion**, will help to unpeel, layer after layer of your life. Driving us deeper to the core.
- 2.7.9.5. Like a **rest** in a **piece of music**, the silence helps define the significance of the sound.
- 2.7.10. So, **Hear the Lord’s voice even above the noise of war!**

¹ Chuck Swindoll; “Intimacy w/the Almighty”; pg.17,18

3. THE BATTLE! (5-7)

- 3.1. (5) “He remembers his nobles” - The Assyrian leader calls his best officers.
- 3.1.1. “They stumble in their walk” – Instead of marching as soldiers, they stumble like drunkards.
- 3.1.1.1. We are soldiers of the lord! – Q: How’s your march soldier?
- 3.1.1.2. 2 Tim. 2:4 “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”
- 3.1.2. “They make haste to her walls” - his best officers are command to protect the wall.
- 3.1.3. “And the defense is prepared” – but...it is too late! (see next verse)
- 3.2. (6) The invaders simply dammed up the river(the Khoser, that ran through the city), & then released the water.
- 3.2.1. This dissolved the sun-dried mud bricks. (part of the wall & some of the buildings)
- 3.2.2. Ex: Haiti flooded with heavy rains 2 years ago. There mud/wood slat houses melted away.
- 3.3. (7) This could be speaking about the queen?
- 3.4. Application: The very things they trusted in...were their downfall.
- 3.4.1. Q: What is it you are trusting in at this stage in your life?
- 3.4.1.1. Boy, how quick it can all melt away.
- 3.4.1.2. Q: Have any melt downs lately?
- 3.4.2. Is it a coincidence that the center verses in the bible deal with **trusting in God** vs. **trusting man**? (prob so...but it is interesting)
- 3.4.2.1. 31,174 vs. in the bible. (middle is 15,587/8th)
- 3.4.2.2. Ps.118:8,9 “It is better to **trust in the LORD** Than to put confidence in man. It is better to **trust in the LORD** Than to put confidence in princes.”

4. THE VICTORY! (8-10)

- 4.1. (8) Archeology Note – (They fled!) “**Sardanapalus** [another name for King Sinshar-ishkun] sent away his three sons and two daughters with much treasure into Paphlagonia, to the governor of Kattos, the most loyal of his subjects” (Diodorus, *Bibliotheca Historica*, 2. 26. 8).

- 4.2. (9) **Archeology Note** - According to the Babylonian Chronicle, “Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap” (Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia*, 2:420).
- 4.3. (10) **Empty, desolate, & waste.**
- 4.3.1. These 3 words sound similar in Hebrew... “*buka, mevukah, mevulakah*”.
- 4.3.2. Charles Feinberg claimed that “the words imitate the sound of the emptying of a bottle.” {say it using loose jaw, & loose lips!}

5. **THE HUMILIATION! (11-13)**

- 5.1. (11,12) Assyria was identified w/**the lion**, an image in many of their sculptures.
- 5.1.1. But even worse, the Assyrians “acted” like lions!
- 5.1.2. So, Nahum taunts them!
- 5.1.3. But these Assyrian lions no longer have a **den** to lie-in!
They no longer will **devour**, but only to **cower**!
Roar, they would no **more**!
And, they no longer would **kill**...to the **fill**!
- 5.1.4. Assyria would be **de-clawed & de-fanged**!
- 5.1.5. *And so will all the enemies of the Gospel!*“in **His** right time!”
- 5.1.6. See **Rev.6:9-11**...the 5th seal!
- 5.1.7. **Who were these martyrs?** Probably martyrs from during the 1st 4 plagues.
- 5.1.8. **Why under the altar?** The blood was always poured out at the foot of the altar.
- 5.1.9. God’s answer....Wait!.....Still more to be martyred!
- 5.1.10. Here we glimpse at the long standing **problem w/evil** - **Why it is allowed to reign?**
- 5.1.11. We can be sure, it is for His **perfect plan & purposes**, which are best from His vantage point, of His **total plan** - though diff. from our limited viewpoint!
- 5.1.12. This is difficult from the Martyrs standpoint, “why would God let these murderers live?”.....**TRUST HIM!** {Let Him, do His will, in His time!}
- 5.1.13. “Death for Jesus sake is not a waste - but is sac. & worship!”
- 5.1.14. Re: Martyrdom, “**Love makes the whole diff. between an execution & a martyrdom.**” (Evelyn Underhill)
- 5.2. (13) “**I am against you**” – Chilling words!
- 5.2.1. It was **the Lords doing**...the Medes & Babylon were simply **tools** in His hand!...**Their time was up, there end had come!**