

The Book of Nahum

Chapter 2

Key Terms:

Learn by Heart (SC and/or Scripture Passage):

Main Objectives for this Lesson:

Key Questions & Answers:

Catechesis Summary:

Small Catechism Connection:

Lesson

Devotion

- Congregation at Prayer

Review

- Verses 2-11
 - We see God's awesome power and strength and how it's used to pour out His wrath and vengeance on Nineveh.
 - This wrath on Nineveh is a picture of God's wrath on sin.
- Verses 12-13
 - Yahweh's speaks comfort to Judah.
 - Their affliction is coming to an end.
- Verses 14
 - Yahweh addresses the King of Assyria speaking further words of judgment.
- Chapter One Overview
 - We can find comfort that God's promise to right what has gone wrong.
 - In the midst of hatred towards God and His people, the Lord will have the final say.
 - Through Christ, He has destroyed sin, death, and the devil.
 - This will be finally realized on the last day.

Na. 1:15

- Initial Thoughts on Verse 15:
 - In the Hebrew, this verse is the beginning of Chapter 2.
 - It actually leads us into the chapter nicely.
- "Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace!" Do Nahum's words here sound familiar?
 - Similar words are used elsewhere in Scripture:
 - Isaiah 52:7; "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
 - Rom. 10:15; "And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
 - Explanation:
 - Over the mountains surrounding Jerusalem hurry the feet of a messenger.

- The messenger brings the Word of the Lord which is good tidings of great joy to the sorrowing people of God.
 - He brings a message of, “Peace.”
 - “Peace”
 - What words does Jesus speak to His disciples on the day of His resurrection?
 - Peace!
 - Through Christ’s death and resurrection, Christ has destroyed sin, death, and the devil.
 - He has reconciled us, put us back into right relationship with the Father.
 - Even when things aren’t going right, we have this peace for Christ’s sake.
 - “Feet”
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 - Luther:
 - “I believe that we must not only take this passage to refer to the Gospel of grace promised and revealed to us through Christ, by which believers become the sons of God and coheirs with Christ, but I think we must also understand it to apply to temporal promises such as to a vanquished and routed enemy, to the spoils gathered, to a hollowed peace.”
- What is meant by “Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows...”
 - Judah should fill secure.
 - Keep hearing the word.
 - Continue to celebrate the feasts that the Lord has commanded you.
 - The feasts that point to a redeemer...
 - What does this mean for us?
 - In the face of persecution, churches declining,
 - Keep hearing the word
 - Keep confessing your sins.
 - Keep receiving the sacraments.

Na. 2:1

- Who is the scatterer?
 - Yahweh – The Triune God!
 - Na. 1:13 says, “I will break his yoke from off you...”
 - God will disperse Nineveh’s inhabitants.
- Who is speaking to who when it says, “Man the ramparts...”?
 - Yahweh is speaking to Nineveh.
 - Basically, prepare for battle.
 - Fortify your city.
 - “Watch the road,” that is be on the lookout.
 - “Dress for battle” and “Collect your strength”
 - God is giving them a warning that a battle is coming and they will need everything they have.
 - Yet, the irony here is that their strength is nothing compared to God’s.

Na. 2:2

- “For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob...”
 - Prior to this the Assyrians repressed all nations and kept them in subject.
 - But the time is coming when the glory of the kingdoms of Jacob and Judah will return.
 - Jacob will no longer be afflicted but will become glorious.
 - The restoration of Israel’s splendor finds its ultimate fulfillment in the NT Church (Eph 5:27).
- “ruined their branches”
 - God’s people are pictured as a vineyard whose branches were stripped bare of fruit by ravagers.
 - Can’t help but think of Christ as the vine and we are the branches.
 - Christ feels that pain when people go after His branches.

Na. 2:3

- Verses 3-10 describe the besiege and pillage of Nineveh.
- Here, the Lord destroys Judah’s enemy.
- “Red and Scarlet...”
 - These colors may be taken literally or may refer to the blood of battle.
 - Luther takes this literally. He says these colors would terrify the Assyrians as if to threaten them with bloodshed, as if he already sees them slain and bespattered with blood.
- “Chariots come with flashing metal...”
 - Chariots, were frightful instruments of warfare in Nahum’s time.
 - Covered with steel they flashed in the sun.
- “On the day...”
 - A reference to, “The day of the Lord!”
 - This is end-times language.
 - The day of God’s judgment and wrath against sin.
 - It’s the day where the LORD will have the final say.
- “Cypress spears”
 - The wood of cypress trees was both strong and flexible, ideal for lances or spears.

Na. 2:4

- How are the chariots described?
 - They are described as:
 - Race madly
 - gleam like torches
 - darting like lightning
 - Can you picture this?
 - Streets once crowded with caravans of merchants now run mad with chariots.
 - Can you imagine the terror this caused?

Na. 2:5

- Who is the “he” in this verse?

- Luther takes this to mean the Assyrian king summons his officers to confront the enemy.
- The Assyrian army stumbles as they try to fight back.
- God is their adversary.

Na. 2:6

- “Water gates”
 - Nineveh was watered by rivers and had rivers flowing by it.
 - The water gates which held back these rivers were opened by the invaders.
 - With these gates open the city would be flooded.
- Palace melts away
 - As the water gates being opened, the palace is destroyed.
 - The royal residence, the king’s palace is no longer.

Na. 2:3-6

- These verse give us a picture of the battle.
- It appears that the enemy overcame the city with ease.

Na. 2:7

- “Its mistress”
 - Not certain who the referent here is.
 - Some see it as a picture of Nineveh.
 - Others, like Luther, think it’s the queen of Nineveh.
 - It seems like it would be the later as there’s a reference to “Slave Girls”
 - What is described here is humiliating.
 - The royal garb once worn is ripped off.
 - She is shamefully naked, being taken away by the enemy.
 - Honor and glory is replaced with dishonor and shame.
- “Slave girls lamenting”
 - They weep and mourn over their loss.
 - Like someone beating a drum, these girls beat their chests as an expression of great mourning over their demise.

Na. 2:8

- “Like a pool whose waters run away.”
 - This once-flourishing city now has the look of a drained pool.
 - There are cries to “Stand-firm.”
 - However, no one stops or listens.
 - Everyone is in flight from the city.
 - The desolation of Nineveh has come.

Na. 2:9

- “Plunder the silver...”
 - Suddenly the scene shifts from the fleeing populace to the conquerors running into the city to plunder it.
 - You have of silver and gold.

- You hear of endless treasure and wealth.
- Nineveh had grown rich through the plunder of its foes, but now its Nineveh's turn to be looted.
- Similar theme found in Haggai 2:7
 - “And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.”
 - The Lord shakes all nations
 - He fills it with His glory.
 - No end of the precious things that come in after the plunder.
- Christ:
 - This pales in comparison to the richest we have through Christ.
 - He bought us, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and innocent suffering a death on the cross.
 - Through His blood we have inherited true riches – forgiveness, eternal life, and salvation.

Na. 2:10

- Desolation and ruin
 - The judgment upon Nineveh is great!
- “Hearts melt and knees tremble...”
 - This great destruction of Nineveh had bodily effects on the people.
 - This language is “day of the Lord” / “final days” speak.
 - Joel 2:6; “Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.

Na. 2:11-12

- Verses 11-13 is the Lion's Taunt
- Before:
 - Nineveh had long been like a lion's den.
 - The ravage, invincible killer lion had brought ever increasing masses of spoils for his lioness and their cubs.
 - They enjoyed their wealth to their hearts content.
 - No one dare disturb them.
- Now:
 - Nahum using this imagery to taunt them.
 - Where is this den? This stronghold?
 - It's gone forever.

Na. 2:13

- Who is against Nineveh?
 - The Lord of Hosts/Sabaoth – Lord of Angel Armies Himself is against them.
 - He takes sin seriously.
- What punishments are described here to those who oppose God?
 - God will kindle a huge fire and will burn her chariots in the smoke.
 - Their young lions, the youth of the land, will be slain with the sword.
 - Their prey, their treasure will be no more.

- The voice of their ambassadors – deceptive promises and terrifying threats will no longer be heard.
- This is dire doom for Nineveh.

Na. 2:11-13

- “Lion” in Scripture
 - The LORD as a Lion:
 - Hosea 11:10; “They shall go after the Lord; he will roar like a **lion**; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west...”
 - Amos 3:8; “The **lion** has roared; who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?”
 - The LORD’s People as a Lion:
 - Micah 5:8; “And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a **lion** among the beasts of the forest, like a young **lion** among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver.”
 - God’s people are a reflection of Him who is the lion.
 - Christ is the Lion
 - Revelation 5:5; “And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the **Lion** of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”
 - The lion of the other side, the evil lion, has been defeated through the Lion of the tribe of Judah, David’s greater Son – Jesus Christ.
 - Like, “O death, where is your sting.”
 - O Lion where is your bite?

Final Thoughts

- We see some pretty harsh language.
- Yet, remember how the Chapter started (1:15).
- These harsh words are words of comfort for God’s children.
- As God’s child through the blood of Christ, how are these words of comfort for you?

Closing Devotion