



SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 2022 | PASTOR JONATHAN BARBER

MESSAGE TITLE: A RAY OF HOPE FROM NAHUM

MESSAGE SERIES/OCCASION: 1ST MESSAGE OF 2022

MESSAGE TEXT:

THEME VERSE:

Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.*

TEXT:

Nahum 1:8 *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.

This truth has resounded throughout the Scripture:

Exodus 34:6-7 *And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, (7) Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty...*

This that was originally given to Moses is repeated several times:

Numbers 14:17-18

Psalm 86:15 *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

Psalm 103:8

Jeremiah 32:18-19

Daniel 9:4

Joel 2:13

Habakkuk prayed accordingly:

Habakkuk 3:2 *O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.*

The people of Nineveh knew first hand what it is like when God, in wrath remembers His mercy. They were the recipients of God's amazing grace. However, as we have all experienced to some degree or another, these people quickly forgot God's message and spurned His mercy. It was not long before they were back in all of the wickedness that they were known for before. The time of the prophet of grace is over. It is time for judgment. Along came Nahum.

But what about a believing remnant in Nineveh? Surely there are still some who will never be the same! What about the few God-fearers that are left? Are they to be swept away with the wicked? No. God has always cared for His remnant.

So what is this ***Ray of Hope from Nahum?*** It is threefold:

- **The Lord is Good**

Psalm 119:68 *Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.*

- **His Character: He is good**

Matthew 7:11 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children...*

- **His Actions: He does good**

...how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:11

- **The Lord is a Stronghold in the Day of Trouble**

This theme is repeated over and over again in the Psalms & Proverbs:

Psalm 61:3 *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*

Psalm 18:2 *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

Psalm 31:3 *For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.*

Psalm 71:3 *Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.*

Psalm 91:2 *I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.*

Psalm 144:2 *My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.*

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*

From this we conclude two things:

- **We can expect a Day of Trouble!**

2 Timothy 3:12 *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

- **When trouble comes, head for the Strong Tower!**

Proverbs 18:10 *The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*

- **The Lord Knows Those Who Trusts in Him**

- **God's remnant will never be forgotten, forsaken, or cast aside**
- **God knows you!**

2 Timothy 2:19 *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

2 Chronicles 32:8 *With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

Conclusion:

God gave them *and us* a **Ray of Hope**.

As we enter the new year, believer, remember:

- **You serve a good God**
- **You have a Strong Tower**

- **Your faith has not been forgotten**