

2021.04.25 Sunday Sermon <Gospel of Nahum>

Psalm 51:1-2, 10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. ² Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Nahum 1:9-13

⁹ Whatever they plot against the Lord he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.
¹⁰ They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble.
¹¹ From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the Lord and devises wicked plans.
¹² This is what the Lord says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more. ¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."

The Gospel of Nahum is not a well-known book within the Bible and thus is can be difficult to preach about it. The subject of Nahum's prophecy is the approaching complete and final destruction of Nineveh, the capital of the great and at that time flourishing Assyrian empire. Ashurbanipal was at the height of his glory. Nineveh was a city of vast extent, and was then the center of the civilization and commerce of the world, according to Nahum a "bloody city all full of lies and robbery", a reference to the Neo-Assyrian Empire's military campaigns and demand of tribute and plunder from conquered cities. Nineveh was destroyed apparently by fire around 625 BC, and the Assyrian empire came to an end, an event which changed the face of Asia.

This book shares what the Lord said to the Israelites who went through challenging times. As we look back on our past days, weeks, months, and year hearing about COVID and hate crimes all over the world, we can wonder...how can we continue to live like this? Let us look at the Gospel of Nahum and see what the Lord said to the Israelites and let us utilize in our daily living.

1. He Fights for Me

We are all weak, but if someone strong and powerful helps and fights on behalf of us, our minds and hearts will be at peace. When we look at today's scriptures, the chosen ones were protected and the Lord fought the enemies on behalf of them.

Nahum 1:2

*The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.
The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.*

Nahum 1:6

*Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.*

Nahum 1:9

Whatever they plot against the Lord he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

Nahum 1:12

This is what the Lord says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more.

Even the powerful Assyrian empire could not stand the power of the Lord. No matter how much money, power, or strong fortress the enemies may have...they couldn't win against our Lord.

When Moses were leading the Israelites out of Egypt, the Egyptian army was following them. When the Israelites had nowhere to run to, the sea opened up for them to seek refuge.

Exodus 14:14

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still."

We may be a minority without much power in this nation, but the Lord will fight for us. Just as He fought for the Israelites against Egyptian army and Assyrian Empire. The same Father and our Lord will be there for us and love us.

2. He Comforts Me

When we are in trouble, we seek for comfort. We feel this comfort when someone comes to us and talks to us. The Lord will comfort us when we are in trouble.

Nahum 1:12-13

¹² *This is what the Lord says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more. ¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."*

Isaiah 66:13

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."

In typical Korean culture, the father's role was to discipline the children were strict. The mother's role was to comfort the children after the father's discipline. The Lord will comfort us like our mothers have done for us. because our Lord is our comforter.

1. Father of mercies / God of comfort

1 Corinthians 1:3

³ *Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

2. Jesus wept

John 11:35 *Jesus wept.*

3. Another comforter

John 14:16

¹⁶ *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—*

When Prophet Elijah was in difficulty, he wanted to end his life...but the Lord called on him and comforted Elijah. Even when Peter denied Jesus three times, Jesus still came to Peter and comforted him.

During the funeral of Deaconess Kwon this past Friday, I thought about her life with 8 children. I am sure she had many challenging moments in her life, but God must have provided her with comfort during those moments.

Our Lord is graceful. He comforts and provides us with hope. When we hit rock bottom and fall on our knees, He comes to us and comforts us.

3. He Cares for Me

As He fights and comforts us, He also knows those who rely and trust Him.

Nahum 1:7

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him,

Our Lord is almighty and He is good to us. This message is mentioned in the Bible several times.

Psalm 118:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 118:29

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Matthew 7:11

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

When we look at David's life, he had many ups and downs. When David was in difficulty, the Lord was always beside him and provided refuge.

Psalm 18:1-2

¹ *I love you, Lord, my strength.* ² *The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

A long time ago in a Washington, DC newspaper, there was an article about Lettie Grant. She was paralyzed by polio one day - all she can do is talk and hear. She tried to commit suicide but could not leave her young daughter behind. She called onto the Lord in frustration. All of sudden she felt her toe moving. She felt the urge to live and called the telephone company. She explained her situation and was able to get hired working at the telephone company. She ended up working at the same telephone company for 16 years and was able to put her daughter into college. During her retirement speech, she said the following...*"My Lord, My Good Lord."*

Story of Queen Victoria of England - She was well respected and loved by her people. One night, she was traveling on her special train. The train engineer saw a strange shadow that suddenly appeared. It seemed like shape of a person in the middle of the railroad and waving both arms. The engineer pulled the brakes to check the railroad. However, there was nothing. surprised, so I pulled the brakes and stopped suddenly and checked with the assistant, but there was nothing. As the engineer looked further down the railroad, he realized the rails were washed away due to flooding. If he didn't stop to check on the figure, the train could have derailed and overturned the train. When arriving at London, they inspected the train and realized a bug was on the headlight. The shape of the bug was what appeared and allowed the engineer to stop the train and avoid the possible train accident. When Queen Victoria heard the news, she said it was the Lord sending the angle to reflect a figure and leading the train to stop.

In Summary:

Through Gospel of Nahum, we know...

- Lord fights for me
- Lord comforts me
- Lord cares for me

He is so good to me.