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A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- We know little of Nahum.
 - The 7th of the twelve Minor Prophets.
- His name means "comforted".

- The only mention in Scripture of **Nahum the Elkoshite** occurs in the first verse.
 - Nahum's prophecy **against the city of Nineveh** would have been significant for the people of Judah,
 - Who would have needed encouragement in the face of the **terrifying power of the Assyrian Empire.**

- At this time the Northern kingdom was already in Assyrian captivity.
- So Nahum directly speaks to the kingdom of Judah. (Nahum 1:15).

- The subject of Nahum's prophecy is judgment over Nineveh.

- Jonah had prophesied over Nineveh as well but he lived around 150 years earlier.

- **The mercy of Jehovah**
is prevailing in the
book of Jonah
 - **Nahum**
only announces
the fury of God
and the
utter destruction
of this godless city.

- **Of what were they guilty?**

**"He will by no means
clear the guilty ..."**

(Nahum 1:3)

- It was not an
on a sudden impulse
that God pronounced
against Nineveh.
- This prophecy cites exactly
Nineveh's guilt:

- **"Wickedness"**
(Nahum 1:3)
- **"God's enemies"**
(Nahum 1:8)
- **"Plotters of evil"**
(Nahum 1:9,11)
- **"Worship idols and images"**
(Nahum 1:14)
 - **"Heathen Festivals"**
(Nahum 1:15)
 - **"The plunderers"**
(Nahum 2:2)
 - **"Blood shed and lies"**
(Nahum 3:1)

- **"Liars and robbers"**
(Nahum 3:1)
- **"The insatiable seekers of gain"**
(Nahum 3:1)
 - **"The harlots"**
(Nahum 3:4)
- **"The betrayers of weaker nations"**
(Nahum 3:4)
 - **"The despicable"**
(Nahum 3:5ff)
 - **"The presumptuous"**
(Nahum 3:8)
 - **"Endless cruelty"**
(Nahum 3:19)

- The time of God's wrath is "*the day of the Lord*," the final Judgment of the great day when all men shall be judged.

(**Matthew 25**).

- Throughout history there have been many tokens God's judgment upon wicked men and nations, as recorded in the Bible.

- These are of two kinds:

- (1) **Great natural disasters**
such as the Flood.
- (2) **Overwhelming destruction**
executed upon wicked cities:
 - Nations such as:
 - Sodom, Gomorrah,
 - Tyre, Sidon, Assyria,
 - Nineveh, Babylon,
 - Jerusalem, Rome, etc.
 - Are we to suppose their destruction
was accidental?

- **God's justice requires** that such evil be punished;
 - And it still does!
 - The previous list indicates that Nineveh had filled up **the full measure** of their iniquity.
(**Genesis 15:16**)

- Nahum's prophecy **is only focused on Nineveh.**

- It is striking that the sins of **Israel** and **Judah** **are not mentioned at all.**

- While the **holy** and **just** fury of God is announced to the **enemies of God's people.**

- **The people of God** receive comforting words (**Nahum 1:12-15**).

- **In chapter 1**
we see God as **jealous** and **revenging**
in His majesty.

- **Chapters 2 & 3**
prophecy exactly the **fall** and **destruction**
of Nineveh.

- **Nineveh**
was the
capital of the
Assyrian empire.
- Her founder was **Nimrod**
who lived shortly
after the flood
(**Genesis 10:8-12**).

- There was rivalry between Assyria and Babylon from the very beginning.
 - Babylon is the picture of worldly might in a religious garment.
 - Assyria pictures the cruel heathen world, which knows nothing but her own importance.

- Jonah

was sent

to Nineveh

around the year

800 BC

to turn them from
their cruel ways.

• **God used Assyria**
as a rod of his anger
to punish
His guilty people
of Israel

• **But finally this rod**
had to be punished itself
for its haughtiness
and its malice

(Isaiah 10:5-19; Ezekiel 31:3-17; Zephaniah 2:13).¹⁹

- Verse one begins with:
"The burden of Nineveh ..."
- **This expression means:**
"the prophecy of the doom of Nineveh."
 - The word
"burden"
carries with it the idea
of a heavy load.
 - Meaning that
Nineveh's sins
have at last become
such a heavy load on God
that He could no longer permit
the city to stand.

- "Nineveh ..." was one of the greatest cities of antiquity.
- It was for an extended period was the most powerful city on earth.
 - Any prophecy of the doom of such a city must have appeared to be sheer madness at the time of Nahum's prophecy.

- **God's Wrath Against Nineveh.**

- **The LORD is a zealous and avenging God;**
 - **The LORD is avenging and very angry.**
 - **The LORD takes vengeance against his foes;**
 - **He sustains his rage against his enemies.**
 - **The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;**
 - **the LORD will certainly not allow the wicked to go unpunished.**
 - **He marches out in the whirlwind and the raging storm;**
 - **dark storm clouds billow like dust under his feet.**
- (Nahum 1:2-3)**

- The wrath of God is a subject **rarely mentioned** by preachers.
- Or even the most **extensive commentaries** is it mentioned.
- And if it is mentioned at all it is in a most casual **and incidental manner.**

- However,
the greatest men
of both the Old Testament
and the New Testament
were the ones
who most emphatically
and sternly stressed
God's wrath.

- Isaiah, Paul, John, Jesus
were among those
who most clearly
and vigorously
emphasized it.
- And they were the ones
in whom love
was most evident.

- Isaiah,

the great Messianic prophet,
whose knowledge of

God's love

equals that of any other
in the

Old Testament, said:

- **Isaiah 13:9**

The LORD's day of judgment is coming; it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger, destroying the earth and annihilating its sinners.

- **13:13** ***So I will shake the heavens, and the earth will shake loose from its foundation, because of the fury of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, in the day he vents his raging anger.***

Revelation 20:11

**And I saw
a great white throne,
and him that sat on it,
from whose face the earth
and the heaven fled away;
and there was found
no place for them.**

- Read

Hosea 1:9-17

for as terrible

a denunciation

as any to be found

in the Bible.

- **Paul's love knew no limits;**
and he could say,
 - ***"I could wish myself anathema from Christ for my brethren according to the flesh"***
(Romans 9:3)
- But he, more than any other apostle, thundered the message of **the wrath of God.**

***"For the wrath of God
is revealed
from heaven
against all ungodliness
and unrighteousness
of men
who hold the truth
in unrighteousness"
(Romans 1:18).***

Romans 2:5

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourselves in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed!

2:6 He will reward each one according to his works:

- **Romans 2:7**

Eternal life to those who by perseverance in good works seek glory and honor and immortality,

- **2:8 but wrath and anger to those who live in selfish ambition and do not obey the truth but follow unrighteousness.**

Ephesians 5:6

Let nobody deceive you with empty words, for because of these things God's wrath comes on the sons of disobedience.

- John, whose writings abound with such admonitions as **"love one another,"**
- And who identified God Himself as love, also spoke most eloquently **of God's wrath:**

- **"And the kings of the earth, and the great men and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man,**

- **hid themselves
in the dens and in the
rocks of the
mountains;
and said
to the mountains
and rocks,**

- **Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits upon the throne,**
 - **and from the wrath of the Lamb;**
 - **for the great day of his wrath has come;**
- **and who shall be able to stand?"**

(Revelation 6:16,17).

- When we come to the words of Jesus, we must remember Him that gave his life for all mankind;
- He who loved us before we loved him.
Yet he said:

- **John 3:36**

**The one who believes
in the Son has eternal life.**

- **The one who
rejects the Son
will not see life,
but God's wrath
remains on him.**

- Here we have **the most solemn assurance** that God's wrath will certainly and eventually break forth against the wicked.
- As the object of God's wrath **is sin.**
 - As all sin is against God.
 - **And He takes it personal.**

- **God's holiness**
is utterly and eternally
opposed to sin.
- God and sin are
irreconcilable:
- As **light** and **darkness**,
- As **truth** and **falsehood**,
- As **good** and **evil**;
 - And on
“The day of the Lord”
in His righteous wrath will
cast evil out of his universe.

- People become objects of God's wrath only when they reject the Creator and choose to become servants of the Devil.

- That man is capable of making such a choice derives from the **inherent gift of God:**
- **The freedom of the will.**
 - And man must face up to the fact that, free as he is to choose, **he cannot escape the** ultimate consequences of whatever choice he makes.

- In Matthew 25
our Lord divided all mankind
into just two classes:
 - Those on the left
who make the wrong choice.
 - Those on the right
who chose wisely.
- No more terrible words
were ever written;
- And yet they were spoken
by Jesus himself.

- All people are, by nature, **the children of wrath.**
- Such an indictment was made by Paul when he said:
"We all had lived in times past in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath..."
(Ephesians 2:3).

- **History reveals**
man's tendency to evil.
- **Adam** did not sin gradually,
but all at once.
- **Noah** had scarcely left the ark
until he was drunk.
 - **People of God**
had hardly
escaped Egypt
before they murmured
against God.

- After God gave Moses the Law, the first recorded event thereafter was the breaking of the tablets of stone due to sins of the people.
- It is only through Christ is it possible for men to find the strength to overcome temptation.

- **Satan** is the primary cause of sin.
(**John 8:44**)
 - **God's wrath**
is ever against sin, evil, and Satan,
 - And **not** against men.
- **Hell** itself was not prepared for men,
 - **But for Satan**
and those who choose
to serve the evil one
(**Matthew 25:41**).

- "***Jehovah is slow to anger, and great in power, and will by no means clear the guilty: Jehovah has his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.***"

(Nahum 1:3)

- No matter how strong men may feel
God is able to
put down the mighty
and inflict upon them a death-blow.

- **Divine wrath**

is indeed tempered
with mercy.

- **Micah 7:19**

He will have

compassion upon us;

- ***he will subdue our iniquities;***

- ***and cast all our sins into
the depths of the sea.***

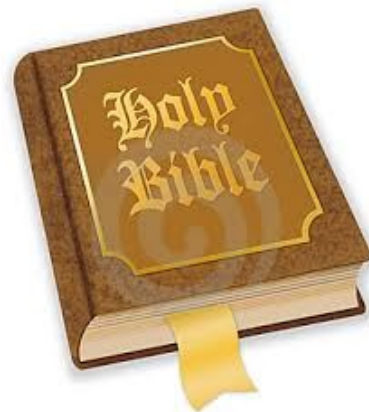
- **Think on these things**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say**

“Come”.

Revelation 22:17



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