Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

5 March 2017 Message 6 of 12

NLT 40 Minutes

**Be Patient**

Title

***Book of Nahum***

**Topic:** Patience

**Theme:** What mistake do we too often make about God’s patience?

**Thrust:** Don’t mistake the patience of God as the impotence of God.

**Purpose:** The listeners will patiently wait for God to judge those who give them grief.

**Attribute:** We worship the God of Patience

**Reading:** Nahum 1:3a

**Song:** “Still” (Reuben Morgan)

# Introduction

### Interest: Sequels are great as they finish stories that we’ve heard.

Sequels

#### Hollywood has us hooked—a movie always ends without a real ending, which makes you want to see what happens next, right? So it continues into parts 2 and then 3.

• Bourne  
• Ice Age  
• Star Wars

#### The *Bourne* series has three movies. Ice Age had a sequel in *Ice Age 2*, followed by a sequel-to-the-sequel in *Ice Age 3*. The same was true for the *Star Wars* Trilogy, *Jaws*, and many others.

Minor Prophets

### Curiosity: In recent weeks, we have covered five of the 12 Minor Prophets. So far we have seen 5 “Be” titles:

Be

#### Obadiah taught us not to be proud like the Edomites. Instead, *be humble*.

• Humble

#### Jonah warned that God cared for Nineveh, so we also should *be caring*.

• Just

• Caring

#### Amos said that God was just, so we should *be just*.

• Loyal

#### Hosea was a great example of God’s loyalty to Israel, so we should *be loyal* to him.

#### Micah defended the poor as God does, so we also should *be generous.*

• Generous

### Intro to MPI: That second study was on Jonah. Nineveh was the super-city of antiquity, composed of four cities combined (cf. Gen. 10:11-12). When we studied Jonah we saw at the end that Nineveh repented, God relented, and Jonah resented. So whatever happened to Jonah and Nineveh?

Waiting

Jonah  
(3 slides)

Nineveh Map

#### We left Jonah pouting—but what ever happened to him? Well, we just don’t know! The Bible doesn’t say.

• So what happened?

#### But what happened to Nineveh? The Bible does tell us where the city was at spiritually 100 years later.

Assyrian Face

### Background: Nineveh repented 100 years earlier under Jonah, but then went back to its sin.

Assyrian Map

Timeline

#### Assyrians invaded Israel 60 years earlier and scattered the people.

#### Then they destroyed 46 towns of Judah—all but Jerusalem!

Chariot & Lion

Title

#### Would God do anything about this? What happens when repentance is short-lived?

### Subject: Today we will study the incredible patience of God, which is the title of a book by Charles Stanley. We’ll answer this question: what mistake do we too often make about God’s patience?

Subject

Incredible Patience

### Text: Our text is the sequel to Jonah called Nahum. It tells us Nineveh’s fate.

Timeline

Sequel

#### Nineveh was weak in Jonah’s time, but then grew incredibly strong 100 years later once again.

#### But how strong? What was next on God’s calendar?

Nineveh Map

### Preview: Today we will see what would happen to Nineveh, then what will happen in our future too.

• Nineveh

• Our future

### Transition: And what is that fate? Nahum tells us that…

# I. God would destroy Nineveh but save Judah (Nahum 1–3).

MP

[The capital of Assyria would have capital punishment for its capital crimes, yet the southern kingdom of Israel could gain comfort from this as the LORD would preserve them.]

Chart

Nahum 1

## Nineveh’s judgment is certain, so Judah could feel secure (Ch. 1).

### God’s attributes assure Judah (1:2-8).

#### God is *just*—so Nineveh won’t go unpunished (1:2-3).

1:1-3

(2 slides)

#### God is *all-powerful*—so he can handle Nineveh (1:4-6).

#### God is *good*—so he will be loyal to Judah (1:7-8).

1:4-6

(2 slides)

1:7-8

(4 slides)

1:14-15

(3 slides)

### Nineveh will plot against God the last time (1:9-11).

1:9-11

(2 slides)

### Nineveh's destruction will bring peace to Judah (1:12-15).

### Nahum’s theology is of God as both sovereign king and warrior.

Theology

(2 slides)

## Nineveh’s judgment is detailed to show Judah that God will protect them (Ch. 2).

Chart

### Attacked: Nineveh should prepare for battle because God considers Judah's splendor a “done deal” (2:1-2).

2:1-2

### Defeated: The destruction of the city graphically visualizes God's power over the puny Assyrians (2:3-8).

2:3-8

(5 slides)

### Pillaged: The plundering of the city shows how God will humble the proud city (2:9-10).

2:9-10

### Illustrated: God would destroy the powerful Ninevites like destroying a fearless lion in its den (2:11-13).

Chart

Chiasm

(6 slides)

## Nineveh’s judgment is justified because God's justice had to punish them (Ch. 3).

Nahum 3

(6 slides)

### Nineveh’s bloodshed, lying and greed *humiliated enemies* (3:1-4).

### The Babylonians will publicly *humiliate Nineveh* (3:5-7).

Chariots  
(2 slides)

### Nineveh will be drunk when destroyed and will go into hiding for its cruel treatment of Thebes in Egypt in 663 BC (3:8-11).

Thebes

(5 slides)

Title

Title

Title

### Nineveh will be burned because its defense efforts cannot stand up against God's vengeance (3:12-19).

Fulfilled

(7 slides)

MP

# II. God will judge the wicked and deliver the righteous in the future too.

[The LORD is watching over your future, including his promise to punish all who reject him.]

## God is a God of holiness who must judge sin—so just be patient.

Eggs  
(2 slides)

### God will destroy ISIS.

ISIS  
(8 slides)

### Some churches will not talk about sin or judgment.

#### Lakeside Church in Houston, Texas, is the largest church in the USA with 40,000 attending. The pastor, Joel Osteen, is often featured on the cover of *Success* magazine. One key rule in the pulpit there is: you *cannot* talk about *sin or judgment.*

Lakeside

(3 slides)

#### Churches in China in the TSPM also must agree not to preach on certain subjects, including the resurrection of Christ (where he conquers sin) and the return of Christ (where he judges!).

### But at CIC we are not afraid to talk about what God warns us about—and judgment is all over the face of the Bible.

Judgment of God

#### God told Ezekiel that he must warn the people—and if he didn’t, then their blood was on his head (cf. Ezek. 33:1-9)!

#### Hey, I don’t want your blood on my head, so we preach the full gospel here, including God’s wrath!

### Besides, would you really want a God who does not judge sin?

#### Who really wants the *mamby-pamby* God that does not hold people accountable?

#### Do you have respect for parents that do not discipline their children?

#### Do you respect governments that let people get away with murder?

#### Then why do we have a problem with God being a God of justice?

#### God says he will open the books at the great white throne judgment and judge man based on what he has done (Rev. 20:14-15).

## God also is a God of love who will deliver you from harm.

God Judge  
(3 slides)

### The Day of the LORD teaching includes many blessings too!

### We have a tremendous future ahead of us in Christ (Rev. 20:1-6).

#### The Bible says that Christ will return to judge the world (Rev. 19:11-21).

#### Then 1000 years of blessing will follow where Satan is bound and the saints rule the world with Christ (Rev. 20:1-6).

##### Jesus said in Matthew 19:28 that he will rule in a literal, political kingdom with the apostles on 12 thrones.

##### People will finally live under Christ’s gracious rule.

# Conclusion

### Don’t mistake the patience of God as the impotence of God (Main Idea).

MI

#### God doesn’t work on our timing—for we are impatient.

#### But don’t let your impatience make you think God can’t resolve things. This issue isn’t that God can’t solve issues. It’s that he is more patient than you give him credit for. He had many people through history have to wait (Joseph 13 years, Abraham 25 years, Moses 40 years, Jesus 30 years).

Wait. It’s Biblical

### Main Points

MPI

#### God would destroy Nineveh but save Judah (Nahum 1–3).

MPII

#### God will judge the wicked and deliver the righteous in the future too.

### Exhortations:

Key Verse

#### Are you heading the wrong direction—towards judgment?

##### Once an older man was very offended by the preacher Vance Havner. He complained, “Pastor, you are rubbing the cat the wrong way!” Havner replied, “Well, then turn the cat around!”

##### Are you offended by what I’ve said today? I’ve only warned you as part of my responsibility before God. It’s your responsibility to turn around and come towards God instead of away from him.

#### Most of us here, though, are heading in the right direction—but life still has challenges. So where in your life is it hard to wait for God?

##### God called Judah to wait until he would deal with Nineveh.

Wait.

##### He also calls us to wait on him today. He says, “Wait upon the Lord and you will rise like eagles” (Isa. 40).

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Attractive 30-year-old Singaporean woman tired of waiting for a Christian husband.

# Possible Applications

### Text

# Old Testament Survey Notes

**Nahum**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nineveh’s Destruction** | | | | | | | | |
| **Certain** | | | | **Detailed** | | **Justified** | | |
| **Chapter 1** | | | | **Chapter 2** | | **Chapter 3** | | |
| **Destruction**  **Decreed** | | | | **Destruction**  **Described** | | **Destruction**  **Deserved** | | |
| **Verdict of**  **Vengeance** | | | | **Vision of**  **Vengeance** | | **Vindication of**  **Vengeance** | | |
| **What God**  **Will Do** | | | | **How God**  **Will Do It** | | **Why God**  **Will Do It** | | |
| **God’s Anger** | | | | **God’s Actions** | | **God’s Accusations** | | |
| **God’s Predictions**  **for Judah** | | | | **God’s Power**  **for Judah** | | **God’s Justice**  **for Judah** | | |
| Title  1:1 | God’s Attributes  1:2-8 | Plotting Against God  1:9-11 | Destruction is Judah’s Deliverance  1:12-15 | Battling vs.  Judah’s Splendor  2:1-2 | Destruction  &  Despoiling  2:3-13 | Judgment for  Cruelty  3:1-7 | Drunk when Destroyed  3:8-11 | Burned  with  Fire  3:12-19 |
| **In Judah Against Assyria’s Capital, Nineveh** | | | | | | | | |
| **c. 660 BC** | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Nineveh**

**Key Verse: “The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; he will not leave the guilty unpunished” (Nahum 1:3a).**

**Summary Statement:**

**Nahum prophesies certain destruction upon Nineveh for its scheming against God and cruelty against man to comfort Judah that God will powerfully protect it by destroying Nineveh in accordance with His justice.**

**Application:**

**Do not mistake the patience of God as the impotence of God (Huang Sabin).**

**Nahum**

**Introduction**

# I. Title

## Nahum (~Wxßn) means "comfort" (BDB 637b).

## This is an appropriate name for the prophet who comforted Judah by decreeing the fall of the Assyrians who had severely persecuted Israel.

# II. Authorship

## External Evidence: The rest of the Old Testament is of no help in determining information about the author as he is mentioned only in this prophecy.

## Internal Evidence: Nahum resided in the town of Elkosh (1:1), the location of which is unknown at this time. Four options have been presented: (1) a short distance from Nineveh (unlikely), (2) the city of Elkesi in Galilee (since their consonants are similar), (3) Capernaum means "City of Nahum" and the former Elkosh may have been changed to Capernaum in Nahum's honor, and (4) about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem. As Nahum had a keen interest in the triumph of the southern kingdom of Judah (1:12, 15; 2:2) this last choice is most likely.

# III. Circumstances

## Date: The short book mentions the fall of Thebes in Egypt (3:8-10), which occurred in 664 BC, yet Nineveh’s fall (612 BC) had not yet occurred by the time of Nahum’s writing. However, Thebes was restored a decade after its defeat but Nahum makes no mention of this. Therefore, the date of composition probably falls between 663 and 654 BC. This time period falls during the reign of Manasseh (686-642 BC), Judah's most wicked king, which makes it understandable why Nahum makes no mention of him in the superscription.

## Recipients: Although the message concerned Nineveh (1:1), the capital of Assyria, no record exists of it having reached this empire. The recipients were likely the people of Judah who needed to know that God would judge the nation that persecuted them.

## Occasion: The city of Nineveh had repented under the brief preaching of Jonah over one hundred years earlier (about 760 BC; cf. Jonah 3 and the chart at the end of this study). However, the revival was short-lived and the city returned again to its evil practices. Assyria destroyed Samaria in 722 BC under Sargon II and soon afterwards invaded Judah in 701 BC under Sennacherib's leadership, but Hezekiah was delivered from his hand (cf. Isa. 36–37). By the time of Nahum five decades later, God felt it was time to announce the doom of this evil empire to His people.

## Therefore, since the book was written during the period after the fall of Samaria to the Assyrians (722 BC) but before the fall of Nineveh itself (612 BC), it was written during a time of great fear in Judah that the same fate as Samaria awaited her. God used this prophecy against Assyria to encourage His people in Judah that they would not fall to Assyria as well. Apparently only Judah received this word about Nineveh’s fate (1:15).

# IV. Characteristics

## Nahum is the only entire prophetic book against Assyria in the Old Testament. While Jonah also concerned this nation, it is a narrative account rather than a prophetic pronouncement. The only other prophets who preached against other nations are Habakkuk (against Babylon) and Obadiah (against Edom). These three empires (Assyria, Babylon, Edom) were the major empires that afflicted the Jewish people during the ninth to sixth centuries.

## Unlike most prophets, the preaching of Nahum was not a call to repentance but rather an announcement of irreversible judgment. By Nahum’s time Assyria had already filled up her measure of sins in a similar way that Jeremiah would later claim of Judah.

## The historical fulfillments of Nineveh’s destruction are some of the most clearly documented prophetic fulfillments in archaeology today. See the accompanying chart, “Fulfillments of Nahum’s Prophecies.”

**Argument**

Nahum's prophecy, though directed towards the powerful and cruel Assyrian capital city of Nineveh, is given for the benefit of Judah. He prophesies certain destruction upon Nineveh (ch. 2) for its scheming against God (ch. 1) and cruelty against man (ch. 3) so that Judah might find comfort in the fact that God will powerfully protect His people by destroying Nineveh in accordance with His justice. The prophecy cites that irreversible destruction is decreed (ch. 1) and described in detail (ch. 2) because such judgment is deserved (ch. 3) upon the formerly repentant but backslidden nation.

**Synthesis**

**Nineveh’s destruction**

**1 Certain**

1:1 Introduction

1:2-8 God's attributes

1:9-11 Plotting against God

1:12-15 Destruction = Judah's deliverance

**2 Detailed**

2:1-2 Battling vs. Judah's splendor

2:3-13 Destruction and despoiling

**3 Justified**

3:1-7 Judgment for cruelty

3:8-11 Drunk when destroyed

3:12-19 Burned with fire

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**Certain destruction on Nineveh for her scheming against God and cruelty against man should comfort Judah that God will powerfully protect her due to His justice.**

1. **I. The certainty of God's judgment of Nineveh for scheming against the powerful and just God comforts Judah that the LORD will protect her by destroying Nineveh (Ch. 1).**
   1. God gives this prophecy about Nineveh's doom so Judah will know its divine authority (1:1).
   2. God’s justice, power and goodness reveal His vengeance on Nineveh and His covenant loyalty to Judah (1:2-8).
      1. God describes His justice and power to assure Judah of both His fairness and ability to overthrow Nineveh (1:2-6).
         1. The justice of God over His enemies should encourage Judah that He will judge Nineveh (1:2-3).
         2. The power of God over nature should comfort Judah that He can judge Nineveh (1:4-6).
      2. The goodness of God towards Judah contrasts with His judgment of Nineveh to show His covenant loyalty to Judah (1:7-8).
   3. Nineveh's plotting against the LORD will lead to its own destruction to comfort Judah of God's protection (1:9-11).
   4. Nineveh's destruction will help Judah find deliverance and safety again (1:12-15).
2. **II. Details about the future destruction of Nineveh should help Judah see that God is more powerful than Assyria and more than adequate for protection (Ch. 2).**
   1. Nineveh should prepare for battle because God considers the restoration of Judah's splendor an accomplished fact (2:1-2).
   2. Nineveh's destruction and despoiling are compared to a lion's den filled with torn flesh to help Judah graphically visualize God's power over the puny Assyrians (2:3-13).
      1. The destruction of the city by the Babylonian chariot advance and flood should help Judah to graphically visualize God's power over the puny Assyrians (2:3-8).
      2. The despoiling of the city should show Judah how the proud city is looted and reduced to ruins (2:9-10).
      3. The destruction and despoiling are compared to a lion's den filled with torn flesh to illustrate God's power over the powerful Assyrians (2:11-13).
3. **III. God will destroy Nineveh due its cruelty so that Judah can realize that His justice would not let the city go unpunished (Ch. 3).**
   1. Nineveh will be made a spectacle before other nations due to its insatiable violence and cruelty so that Judah can realize that God's justice would not let the city go unpunished (3:1-7).
      1. Nineveh's bloodshed, lying and insatiable lust for plunder caused great violence and cruelty (3:1-4).
      2. God will make Nineveh a spectacle before other nations because it mistreated others (3:5-7).
   2. Nineveh will be drunk when destroyed and will go into hiding for its cruel treatment of Thebes in Egypt in 663 BC (3:8-11).
   3. Nineveh will be burned with fire because its defense efforts cannot stand up against God's vengeance (3:12-19).

# Fulfillments of Nahum’s Prophecies

Elliot E. Johnson, “Nahum,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, 1:1495

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**Contrasts Between Jonah and Nahum**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Jonah** | **Nahum** |
| **First Book (4 chapters)** | **Sequel (3 chapters)** |
| **c. 760 BC** | **c. 660 BC** |
| **Repentance from Sin** | **Return to Sin** |
| **Nineveh Delivered** | **Nineveh Destroyed** |
| **Israel Responsible** | **Israel Protected** |
| **Opportunity to Repent** | **No Opportunity to Repent** |
| **Narrative** | **Declarative** |
| **Focus on the Messenger** | **Focus on the Message** |
| **Prophet Disobeys** | **Prophet Obeys** |
| **Nineveh Obeys** | **Nineveh Disobeys** |
| **Deliverance from Water** | **Destruction by Water** |
| **Repented then Relented** | **No Repenting, No Relenting** |
| **Jonah’s Wrath Refused** | **Jonah’s Wrath Revisited** |
| **God’s Compassion** | **God’s Judgment** |

**Be Patient**

***Book of Nahum***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: Certain destruction on Nineveh for her scheming against God and cruelty against man should comfort Judah that God will powerfully protect her due to His justice.

1. **I. The certainty of God's judgment of Nineveh for scheming against the powerful and just God comforts Judah that the LORD will protect her by destroying Nineveh (Ch. 1).**
   1. God gives this prophecy about Nineveh's doom so Judah will know its divine authority (1:1).
   2. God’s justice, power and goodness reveal His vengeance on Nineveh and His covenant loyalty to Judah (1:2-8).
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   3. Nineveh will be burned with fire because its defense efforts cannot stand up against God's vengeance (3:12-19).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will patiently wait for God to judge those who give them grief.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Sequels are great as they finish stories that we’ve heard.

### Curiosity/ Intro to MPI: Whatever happened to Jonah and Nineveh?

### Background: Nineveh repented 100 years earlier under Jonah, but then went back to its sin.

#### Assyrians invaded Israel 60 years earlier and scattered the people.

#### Then they destroyed 46 towns of Judah—all but Jerusalem!

#### Would God do anything about this?

### Subject: Today we will study the incredible patience of God, which is the title of a book by Charles Stanley. We’ll answer this question: what mistake do we too often make about God’s patience?

### Text: Our text is the sequel to Jonah called Nahum. It tells us Nineveh’s fate.

### Preview: Today we will see what would happen to Nineveh, then what will happen in our future too.

### Transition: And what is that fate? Nahum tells us that…

# I. God would destroy Nineveh but save Judah (Nahum 1–3).

## Nineveh’s judgment is certain, so Judah could feel secure (Ch. 1).

### God’s attributes assure Judah (1:2-8).

#### God is *just*—so Nineveh won’t go unpunished (1:2-3).

#### God is *all-powerful*—so he can handle Nineveh (1:4-6).

#### God is *good*—so he will be loyal to Judah (1:7-8).

### Nineveh will plot against God the last time (1:9-11).

### Nineveh's destruction will bring peace to Judah (1:12-15).

## Nineveh’s judgment is detailed to show Judah that God will protect them (Ch. 2).

### Attacked: Nineveh should prepare for battle because God considers Judah's splendor a “done deal” (2:1-2).

### Defeated: The destruction of the city graphically visualizes God's power over the puny Assyrians (2:3-8).

### Pillaged: The plundering of the city shows how God will humble the proud city (2:9-10).

### Illustrated: God would destroy the powerful Ninevites like destroying a fearless lion in its den (2:11-13).

## Nineveh’s judgment is justified because God's justice had to punish them (Ch. 3).

### Nineveh’s bloodshed, lying and greed *humiliated enemies* (3:1-4).

### The Babylonians will publicly *humiliate Nineveh* (3:5-7).

### Nineveh will be drunk when destroyed and will go into hiding for its cruel treatment of Thebes in Egypt in 663 BC (3:8-11).

### Nineveh will be burned because its defense efforts cannot stand up against God's vengeance (3:12-19).

# II. God will judge the wicked and deliver the righteous in the future too.

## God is a God of holiness who must judge sin.

### Some churches will not talk about sin or judgment (Lakeside, TSPM).

### But at CIC we are not afraid to talk about what God warns us about (cf. Ezek. 33:1-9)

### Would you really want a God who does not judge sin?

## God also is a God of love who will deliver you from harm.

### The Day of the LORD teaching includes many blessings too!

### We have a tremendous future ahead of us in Christ (Rev. 20:1-6).

# Conclusion

### Don’t mistake the patience of God as the impotence of God (Main Idea).

### Main Points

#### God would destroy Nineveh but save Judah (Nahum 1–3).

#### God will judge the wicked and deliver the righteous in the future too.

### Exhortations:

#### Are you heading the wrong direction—towards judgment? Vance Havner: “You are rubbing the cat the wrong way!”

#### Where in your life is it hard to wait for God?



**Rick Griffith**

5 March 2017

Message 6 of 12

**Be Patient**

***Book of Nahum***

# Introduction

### Sequels are great as they finish stories that we’ve heard.

### Nineveh repented 100 years earlier under Jonah, but then went back to its sin. Would God do anything about this?

### What mistake do we often make about God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

# I. God would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Nineveh but save Judah (Nahum 1–3).

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# II. God will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the wicked and deliver the righteous in the future too.

## God is a God of holiness who must judge sin.

## God also is a God of love who will deliver you from harm.

### The Day of the LORD teaching includes many blessings too!

### We have a tremendous future ahead of us in Christ (Rev. 20:1-6).

# Conclusion

### Don’t mistake the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God (Main Idea).

### How can you be patient?

#### Are you heading the wrong direction—towards judgment? Vance Havner: “You are rubbing the cat the wrong way!”

#### Where in your life is it hard to wait for God?

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