

Nahum: The Purpose of God's Anger

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

What is the meaning of an _____? An oracle is a prophetic message that is believed to be infallible.

The book of Nahum is small and obscure. Therefore, it's often neglected and seldom read. Every book of the Bible has its place and is to be read and understood for spiritual maturity. One responsibility of a prophet was to reveal the _____. Is God's love unconditional? Does He forgive sin? Does He execute judgment? Is He kind and compassionate? Nahum wanted people to know and understand the purpose of God's _____. Anger is one attribute of God that many people never think of or had rather forget. People had rather talk about God's love, not His anger.

Why was God angry? Who was He angry at? God was angry with the people of Nineveh. Who also ministered in Nineveh? _____ reluctantly went to Nineveh and preached God's message. The people of Nineveh _____ God's voice, _____ of their sin, and _____ God's forgiveness. God moved among the rich and the poor. The entire nation changed! May you and I see God move and our nation change! The book of Nahum came years after Jonah's ministry. The people's hearts shifted, and they drifted back into lives of sin and disobedience. Drifting remains a continual concern for God's people today. In Heb. 2:1, the writer says, "*Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.*" Have you ever drifted in your walk with the Lord?

What issues cause the Lord's church to miss her _____ today?

- The absence of an _____
- A drift back to ungodly _____ and _____
- An unhealthy reverence for the church's _____
- The failure of leaders to lead with Spirit-led _____
- The reality of spiritual _____
- An unawareness of God's _____ and _____

Nahum's name means " _____ " or " _____ ." Many of Nahum's prophecies have already been fulfilled. Fulfilled prophecies are one proof for the authority and accuracy of God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12; Is. 55:11).

There are different categories of people who deal with anger. **First**, we meet a person who is always angry. He or she "blows up" over the slightest issue. **Second**, we meet a person who is calm and peaceful by nature. It takes a long time and major issues to stir him or her up. But when his or her patience is exhausted, watch out!

Nahum said, *"The Lord is slow to anger"* (Nah. 1:3). God is _____! May we thank God for His patience with our nation and us! However, He doesn't ignore habitual sin and disobedience. Nahum uses many words to describe God's anger: jealous, vengeance, wrath, anger, indignation, fierceness, and fury. God's anger is real, personal, thorough, and irresistible.

Nahum's message has both _____ and _____ points of application. "Reflecting on tumultuous world events, Nahum writes: *'His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet'* (1:3). Though the global order would soon be shaken, the prophet reminded God's people that *'the Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him'* (1:7)."

The Lord's people need to _____ to pray and trust God during "whirlwinds" and "storms." Do you ever face times of uncertainty? Have you been at a place in life where things seemed out of control? Have you faced a moment that you thought the end of your life was imminent? God's people aren't _____ from storms. God often uses storms to _____ Himself and _____ us.

- Believers around the world continue to face _____, _____, and _____ for embracing the person of Jesus and honoring His name.
- God's people aren't _____ from illnesses, financial pressures, marriage problems, career changes, and loss of loved ones.
- The enemy attacks God's people and seeks to bring _____, _____, and _____ to the Lord's church.
- Political leaders make decisions that _____ with the clear and authoritative principles of God's Word.
- Many people live in _____ because of violence and acts of terror in our country.
- Many people place their hope and trust in things that turn out to _____ or _____.

Nahum reminds us that God isn't _____ during the storms of life. As Ps. 46:1 says, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."* As the skies grow dark, as the winds blow, and as the dust flies, God never _____ His redeemed children. Hebrews 13:5 says, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."* Our God is _____, _____, and _____!

Psalm 34:8 – *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

Psalm 86:5 – *For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

Nahum 1:7 – *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*

Nahum: The Purpose of God's Anger

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

What is the meaning of an **oracle**? An oracle is a prophetic message that is believed to be infallible.

The book of Nahum is small and obscure. Therefore, it's often neglected and seldom read. Every book of the Bible has its place and is to be read and understood for spiritual maturity. One responsibility of a prophet was to reveal the **character of God**. Is God's love unconditional? Does He forgive sin? Does He execute judgment? Is He kind and compassionate? Nahum wanted people to know and understand the purpose of God's **anger**. Anger is one attribute of God that many people never think of or had rather forget. People had rather talk about God's love, not His anger.

Why was God angry? Who was He angry at? God was angry with the people of Nineveh. Who also ministered in Nineveh? **Jonah** reluctantly went to Nineveh and preached God's message. The people of Nineveh **heard** God's voice, **repented** of their sin, and **experienced** God's forgiveness. God moved among the rich and the poor. The entire nation changed! May you and I see God move and our nation change! The book of Nahum came years after Jonah's ministry. The people's hearts shifted, and they drifted back into lives of sin and disobedience. Drifting remains a continual concern for God's people today. In Heb. 2:1, the writer says, "Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it." Have you ever drifted in your walk with the Lord?

What issues cause the Lord's church to miss her **spiritual potential** today?

- The absence of an **outward focus**
- A drift back to ungodly **behaviors** and **practices**
- An unhealthy reverence for the church's **past**
- The failure of leaders to lead with Spirit-led **vision**
- The reality of spiritual **immaturity**
- An unawareness of God's **character** and **attributes**

Nahum's name means "**consolation**" or "**comfort**." Many of Nahum's prophecies have already been fulfilled. Fulfilled prophecies are one proof for the authority and accuracy of God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12; Is. 55:11).

There are different categories of people who deal with anger. **First**, we meet a person who is always angry. He or she "blows up" over the slightest issue. **Second**, we meet a person who is calm and peaceful by nature. It takes a long time and major issues to stir him or her up. But when his or her patience is exhausted, watch out!

Nahum said, “*The Lord is slow to anger*” (Nah. 1:3). God is **patient**! May we thank God for His patience with our nation and us! However, He doesn’t ignore habitual sin and disobedience. Nahum uses many words to describe God’s anger: jealous, vengeance, wrath, anger, indignation, fierceness, and fury. God’s anger is real, personal, thorough, and irresistible.

Nahum’s message has both **national** and **personal** points of application. “Reflecting on tumultuous world events, Nahum writes: ‘*His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet*’ (1:3). Though the global order would soon be shaken, the prophet reminded God’s people that ‘*the Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him*’ (1:7).”

The Lord’s people need to **learn** to pray and trust God during “*whirlwinds*” and “*storms*.” Do you ever face times of uncertainty? Have you been at a place in life where things seemed out of control? Have you faced a moment that you thought the end of your life was imminent? God’s people aren’t **immune** from storms. God often uses storms to **reveal** Himself and **mature** us.

- Believers around the world continue to face **threats**, **ridicule**, and **persecution** for embracing the person of Jesus and honoring His name.
- God’s people aren’t **immune** from illnesses, financial pressures, marriage problems, career changes, and loss of loved ones.
- The enemy attacks God’s people and seeks to bring **division**, **distraction**, and **dysfunction** to the Lord’s church.
- Political leaders make decisions that **disagree** with the clear and authoritative principles of God’s Word.
- Many people live in **fear** because of violence and acts of terror in our country.
- Many people place their hope and trust in things that turn out to **disappoint** or **disappear**.

Nahum reminds us that God isn’t **absent** during the storms of life. As Ps. 46:1 says, “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” As the skies grow dark, as the winds blow, and as the dust flies, God never **abandons** His redeemed children. Hebrews 13:5 says, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*” Our God is **good**, **faithful**, and **sovereign**!

Psalm 34:8 – *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!*

Psalm 86:5 – *For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.*

Nahum 1:7 – *The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*