**Nahum**

**The Destruction of The Wicked**

**What you need to REMEMBER:**

In approximately 750 BC, the Prophet Jonah was instructed to deliver a message of doom to the people of Nineveh, the capital city of the Assyrian Empire. Jonah tried to run away from the assignment, and from God Himself, because of his hatred for the Assyrians. Jonah’s disdain was born from the Assyrian’s brutal regional dominance, including attacks on Jonah’s homeland in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Jonah’s hatred for the Assyrians was understandable given the excessively savage manner in which they exacted their control over the ancient world. They not only conquered their neighboring nations, but they did so with unnecessary cruelty. Mass killings, tortures, disfigurements, and horrifying displays of corpses and body parts were standard practices.

Eventually, the Lord bent Jonah’s will to ensure that the message was delivered to the Ninevites. And, although he fulfilled his assignment in a halfhearted, lackluster fashion – remarkably the Ninevites repented! Thus, sparing them from certain doom.

**What you need to KNOW:**

The Ninevites of Jonah’s day sincerely repented of their wickedness and turned toward the true God. In fact, Jesus affirmed this when He told a group of unbelieving people that at the culmination of human history *“the people of Nineveh (would) stand up in judgment” of them. (see Luke 11:29-32)*

However, with subsequent generations, the Assyrians returned to their heritage of being a terrorist state. Not happy about this, more than 100 years after the coming of Jonah, God raised up the Prophet Nahum. Nahum warned the powerful and wicked people of Nineveh that though ***“the Lord is slow to anger,”*** He is also ***“great in power”*** and He ***“will not leave the guilty unpunished”*** (1:3). They had once avoided destruction, but now they were going to see that even the most powerful nation on earth is no match for the True God’s boundless power. Nahum’s messages were pointed and bold. For 400 years it had seemed that Assyria and her gods were in control of the Middle East. Nahum foretold that this impression would be replaced with the surprising revelation that the God of Israel was the all-powerful one. Nahum predicted that the God of Israel a small, seemingly weak nation that Assyria had terrorized would take them down. And, indeed, Nahum’s prophesy was fulfilled when the ascendent Babylonian Empire conquered Nineveh in 612 BC.

**GET GOING!**

**As you wander through Nahum’s short, three-chapter book, thank the Lord that we are spared His righteous judgment because Someone walked this earth on *“the feet of one who brought good news and proclaimed peace.”* *(1:15)***

**Also be thankful that we now have the privilege of paying forward the favor by fulfilling the *“beautiful”* task of bringing the message of salvation. That, today, we possess *“the feet of those who bring good news!” (Romans 10:15)***