

When God is Against You Nahum 2

Introduction:

1. There are 21 times in the Bible when Almighty God says to somebody, "I am against you." Needless to say, in each instance it is not a good thing.
2. When God says He is against you, it means impending judgment.
Example: **Ezekiel 5:8**
3. The book of Nahum prophesies of God's coming judgment on the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. Nineveh was a metropolis that was built on the eastern banks of the Tigris River.
4. It looked like a city that had everything going for it. It had untold wealth, splendid grandeur, and unprecedented power. But it had one major problem. God said to it, "I am against you." vs. 13; cf. 3:5
5. Nineveh was a city that was built on the plundering and destruction of others. It was a city that had forgotten God (remember Jonah), full of idolatry, lust, and greed. Nahum's message was simply this, "Judgment day is coming."
6. The phrase "I am against you" is equated with God's judgment. Likewise, in Paul's writings to the church we see this same thing. **Romans 1:18, 2:2-6**
7. Here is the point: the destruction and judgment of Nineveh was simply a prelude to a day of God's judgment that is still yet future. Paul calls it "*the day of wrath and...*"
 - Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, Jude all spoke of a "day of judgment."
8. How can a person be prepared for the future Day of Judgment (**Hebrews 9:27**)? There are four truths we must understand and they are all found here in Nahum 2.

First, power is futile on the Day of Judgment.

1. There was not a more powerful city on the face of the earth than Nineveh. It looked invincible, situated with water all around it as an island. vs. 8
2. Nahum symbolized Nineveh as a lion (vs. 11-12). As a powerful and ravenous lion, it had stalked its prey and filled its den with prey from nations and cities.
3. But Nahum vividly depicts what Nineveh's Judgment Day would be like (vs.3-6). Nahum uses sarcasm in verse 1. He says, "Get all your mighty power ready", but then reveals the eventual outcome. Mighty Nineveh will fall and be dashed in pieces and all that will be left are the women which will be led away captive (vs. 7).
4. Did you know that when God brings judgment to this earth, mighty armies, nations, and people will be crushed? They will be absolutely powerless when Christ brings judgment. **Revelation 6:14-17** (notice the list - kings, great men, mighty men)
5. On judgment day, man's power will be rendered useless. Salvation and deliverance will only be found one place - in the Lord. **Psalms 37: 35-39**

Second, pride will be abased on the Day of Judgment.

1. In verse 2, God reminds Nineveh of the judgment that He had brought on His own people, Israel. The word "excellency" means "arrogance, pomp, pride."

2. God's people, Israel, had gotten full of themselves and had rebelled against God and disobeyed God's Word. God brought judgment and their enemies had emptied them out, as Nahum says in verse 2.
 - God had desired for Israel to be as a fruitful vine, but because of sin, their vine branches were now marred.
3. Nineveh likewise was full of itself. They thought they were invincible. The night that the Babylonian army finally broke through the walls, the king was so full of pride and assuredness that he and his nobles were partaking in a drunken orgy.
4. But judgment came suddenly and the king and his people were brought low in a moment. **Illustration:** king burning himself that night
5. Verses 12-13 depict a mighty lion brought low. Listen to how Isaiah describes the future day of judgment. **Isaiah 2:10-12**
6. God brings low the proud, but He gives grace to the humble. Have you ever humbled yourself before God and recognized your need of His grace?

Third, possessions are worthless on the Day of Judgment.

1. There is no way to describe how wealthy this city was. The Assyrians were a powerful war machine. They would capture, plunder, and destroy cities and nations.
2. The gold, silver, and anything of worth from their victims would become theirs. But there is a verse that says, "*You reap what you sow.*" When Nineveh's judgment day finally came, their wealth could do nothing to save them. vs. 9-10
 - When judgment day came, she was "*empty and void, and waste.*"
3. It does not matter how much stuff you accumulate on this earth. On judgment day it will mean absolutely nothing. Isaiah vividly describes God's future judgment day. **Isaiah 2:19-21**
 - This is why Jesus said in **Matthew 6:19-20**, "*Lay not up for yourselves...*"
 - Paul said not to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God. **1 Timothy 6:17**
4. Are you prepared for judgment day? Your riches won't prepare you. What will?

Fourth, only those who have trusted in God will survive the Day of Judgment.

1. The key verse in this book is 1:7. God must bring judgment against sin because He is holy and just. He is the Judge of the earth, but He wouldn't be a **good** judge if He allowed sin and disobedience to go unpunished. **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
2. Yet God is a good God and desires to show mercy. He wants to be your stronghold when judgment day comes. In fact, He has already made complete provision for you to be able to escape judgment day and to be able to live with Him forever.
3. Jesus Christ took the judgment that you and I deserve on the cross. We have all sinned against God and deserve judgment and eternal death, but Christ died for us. **1 Peter 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10**
4. God simply desires to see your heart trusting in the payment Christ made for your sin. Nahum said, "*The Lord knoweth them that trust in him.*"
5. Have you trusted Christ to save you? Let me give you some good news. **Romans 10:12-13** - the "*all*" means you! You can be saved today. You don't have to do anything to earn God's favor. Simply trust in God's Son and what He has already done for you.

6. The thought of judgment day is a fearful thing to those who have rejected Christ (**Hebrews 10:31**), but for those who have trusted Him, Christ has taken the fear out. **2 Timothy 1:7; Psalm 37:39-40**