

## God's Law of Sowing and Reaping Nahum 3

### Introduction:

1. I certainly don't claim to be a farmer (my grandparents were), but there is one thing I know about planting crops and planting seeds. You can only harvest what you plant.
  - I can't plant okra and expect to get green peas. I can't plant and grow an apple tree and expect to get Florida oranges. You reap what you sow into the ground.
2. Did you know that there is a **spiritual** law of sowing and reaping? **Galatians 6:7-8**
3. Many people really believe that they can prove God's law of sowing and reaping wrong, but God says He will not be mocked. This simply means that you will not make a fool out of God. You won't pull one over on God.
4. The mighty Assyrian city of Nineveh learned this truth many years ago. Nineveh was the capital city, full of wealth and power. They dominated the world through brute strength, violence, and utter brutality. They thought they were invincible.
5. But pay day finally came for this city. Nahum prophesied that the day of harvest would finally come for all the wicked sins that they had sown.
6. There are three vital aspects of God's law of sowing and reaping that every person must understand. We see them here in Nahum 3.

### First, you always reap *what* you sow.

1. Very simply put, what you plant, you will harvest. God says, "For **whatsoever** a man soweth (you have the freedom to make choices), **that** (what you planted) shall he also reap."
2. The wicked city of Nineveh learned this truth. Verses 1-4 describe the seeds that Nineveh had chosen to sow - violence, robbery, deception, sorcery, murder and brutality against other nations.
3. In 612 B.C. Nineveh's day of reaping would take place. The Babylonian armies invaded this city, completely sacking, plundering, and destroying this city.
4. What Nineveh had done to other cities, such as No (the Egyptian city of Thebes), would now happen to them. vs. 8-10, 12-13, 18-19
5. They had lied, robbed, and used violence to take wealth from other nations. Now their wealth would all be carried away in violent fashion. It would be gone in a flash. Because of their meanness and cruelty to others, there would be no comforters to assist her.
  - Proud and powerful Nineveh is pictured as a helpless woman cast to the ground and treated as a harlot. vs. 5-6
6. My friend - let this be a lesson to all of us. We cannot sow seeds of sin and wickedness, and expect to reap a wonderful, good, and blessed harvest. It won't happen. **Hosea 10:13**
7. Our decisions have consequences (**Galatians 6:8**). Do not think that you can be dishonest, immoral, ungodly, selfish, deceptive, and never reap from those bad seeds.
  - Just like Nineveh, when you build your life on all the wrong things and with little regard for others, loneliness and misery are the result.

### **Second, you always reap *more* than you sow.**

1. **Illustration:** of what one seed can produce
2. You sow a **seed** and reap a **harvest**. Have you ever heard the expression, "He got more than he bargained for?"
  - God said of wicked Israel, "*For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.*" **Hosea 8:7**
3. When Nineveh's day of harvest finally came, they were completely laid waste.  
vs. 5-7
  - Nineveh was literally buried and never heard from again. vs. 15
4. Satan says, "It's just a little sin. It's no big deal. Nobody will ever know." Satan always minimizes the consequences of sin **before** you commit it.
5. He will then use that same "little" sin to bring major guilt, condemnation, and destruction into your life. Jesus said that Satan is a liar, and the father of it.
6. When David committed adultery with Bathsheba he could have never imagined the humiliation, the grief, the pain, the loss of life, the family turmoil that he would reap.
7. Remember God's law of sowing and reaping - you reap **what** you sow, but you also reap **more** than you sow.

### **Third, you always reap *later* than you sow.**

1. When a farmer goes out in the fields and plants seeds in the ground, does he go out that night and reap a harvest? How about the next day? Next week? He always reaps **later** than he sows, doesn't he?
2. Did you know God's law of sowing and reaping works the same way?  
**Galatians 6:9**
3. Nineveh had repented under the preaching of Jonah, but had forsaken God, and now it has been at least 100 years since the revival under Jonah.
  - For years they had been involved in idolatry and wickedness. They thought God was helpless to do anything. They thought they were invincible. They thought they were getting away with their sin and wickedness.
  - For years they had planted the seeds of wickedness, but thought harvest day would never come.
  - But the day of reaping finally came. Nahum warned them that it would.  
vs. 11-12
4. Remember, harvest day doesn't usually come right away. This principle works positively and negatively. **1 Timothy 5:24-25**
  - Good works that are done on this earth are not always rewarded right away.
  - Evil works are not always judged immediately.
5. Because people are not judged immediately, they mistakenly think, "God doesn't see or God doesn't care." **Ecclesiastes 8:11**
6. God is a just God and must judge sin, but in His mercy, He withholds immediate judgment in hopes that man will repent and turn to Him.
7. Today we live in the time of grace. God is withholding judgment against sin and offering grace and peace to those in the world. He offers this on the basis of His Son's completed work on Calvary for our sin.

8. But one day that grace period will end and God's wrath will be poured out against sin (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**). One day each and every person will stand before God and give account for their personal life. The day of harvest will come!

**What kind of seeds have you been planting?**