

Jonah & Nahum

**Sermons Preached
by Dave Lueloff**

The Book of Jonah

Before we start this book, let us consider why we study the Old Testament. Consider the following:

- The entire Word of God contains history, science, prophecy, wisdom and other things. It is understood by the intellect, but illuminated by the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

- Only the born-again believer, who is indwelt by the Spirit of God can truly understand the spiritual truths contained within this supernatural book. The Bible is alive:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The Bible changes us...little by little. **Exodus 23:30** By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land.

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- The Word of God works via meditation:

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Why read the Old Testament?

- 1) It speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ. As one has said, "The O.T. is the N.T. concealed and the N.T. is the O.T. revealed.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, **concerning me**.

John 1:45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of **whom Moses in the law**, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and **they are they which testify of me**.

2) It gives practical help

Romans 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

In reading the Bible, there is only one interpretation but many applications with the need for the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Leviticus chapter 11 is a tedious reading of what the Israelites could eat and what they could not eat. The interpretation is a literal diet for them. The application for us can be:

A) We are to be separated from the world (clovenfooted) and meditate upon the Word of God (cheweth the cud)

Leviticus 11:3 Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, *and* cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat.

B) Even their food was limited – what we feed our soul should be limited

2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* unlawful deeds;)

Psalms 119:37 Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; *and* quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalms 119:113 SAMECH. I hate *vain* thoughts: but thy law do I love.

Psalms 101:2 I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?

Proverbs 6:25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

C) All is based upon relationship

Leviticus 11:44-45 For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I *am* the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I *am* holy.

D) Holiness is called upon

Leviticus 11:44 For I *am* the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I *am* holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Jonah Running From the Lord Jonah 1:1-3

Jonah Running from God

Chapter 1

Jonah Praying to God

Chapter 2

Jonah Speaking for God

Chapter 3

Jonah Learning of God

Chapter 4

2 Kings 14:25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which *was* of Gathhepher.

➤ **Jonah Running from God**

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Psalms 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

The Christian life is warfare. It is either Duty or Desertion. One said, "I slept, and dreamed that life was beauty. I woke and found that life was duty."

Proverbs 24:10 *If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.*

➤ **The Miracle of the Great Fish**

Could this have happened? Did it happen? Would it happen? Jesus verified it:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

God created all the fish in the sea and He could very easily create one specifically for this event.

Jonah 1:17 Now the **LORD had prepared a great fish** to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Unbelief in the LORD God Almighty is why some would question this. Of course God can.

Psalms 78:19-22 Yea, they spake against God; **they said, Can God** furnish a table in the wilderness? Behold, he smote the rock, that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed; **can he give** bread also? **can he provide** flesh for his people? Therefore the LORD heard *this*, and was wroth...**Because** they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

➤ **Jonah was a picture of Jesus' 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth**

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Luke 24:44 ...These *are* the words which I spake unto you...that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and **in the prophets**, and *in* the psalms, **concerning me**.

Jonah pictured it and Jesus foretold it. Literally fulfilled prophecy!

Matthew 16:21...began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be killed, and be raised again the third day**.

Matthew 17:22-23 ...Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And **they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again**. And they were exceeding sorry.

Matthew 20:18-19 Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, And shall deliver him to the Gentiles **to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again**.

Mark 8:31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and *of* the chief priests, and scribes, and **be killed, and after three days rise again**.

Mark 9:31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that **he is killed, he shall rise the third day**.

Mark 10:33-34 ...the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and **shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again**.

Luke 9:21-22 ...Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and **be slain, and be raised the third day**.

Luke 13:32 And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and **the third day I shall be perfected**.

Luke 18:32-33 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and **put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again**.

John 2:19-20 Jesus answered and said... **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up**.

➤ **City of Nineveh**

Jonah 1:2 ...go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it *is* all full of lies *and* robbery; the prey departeth not; (See 3:19)

➤ **God saved them!**

Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him...

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jonah, the Disobedient Prophet

Jonah was disobedient to God. He ran from the Lord – or tried to run from the Lord!

Jonah 1:1-2 Now the **word of the LORD came unto Jonah** the son of Amittai, saying, **Arise, go to Nineveh**, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah 1:3 But **Jonah rose up to flee** unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof..

➤ **Obedience is a black & white issue**

ILL Tell child to take out the garbage. Either he obeys and does it or he disobeys.

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

➤ **Obedience is an act of submission**

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Lucifer was willful against God and the Antichrist is referred to as the *Willful King*.

Isaiah 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

➤ **Obedience is a blessing or cursing issue**

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe *and* to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:15-16 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed *shalt* thou *be* in the city, and cursed *shalt* thou *be* in the field.

Malachi 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

➤ **Obedience is a decision not to be taken lightly**

Submission to God requires a supernatural work. May our heart be tender to His will.

➤ **Sometimes a 2nd chance is given. Sometimes there is a great price to pay as it is now or never**

Jonah got a 2nd chance: **Jonah 3:1** And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, This is not always the case.

Read Numb. 14:26-39 – Result of disobedience // Numb. 14:40-45 no 2nd chance

➤ **Obedience when there is known sin is not accepted to a thrice holy God**

Read Joshua 7:1-7 - Known sin // Joshua 7:10-12 // Joshua 7:20-21

➤ **Partial obedience is rebellion**

Command: 1 Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

Partial Obedience: 1 Samuel 15:7-9 And Saul smote the Amalekites...And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all *that was good*, and would not utterly destroy them...

Obedience is Claimed: 1 Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed *be* thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

Rebellion is Exposed: 1 Samuel 15:14 And Samuel said, What *meaneth* then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

Blame Game: 1 Samuel 15:15 And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. (Takes credit for partial obedience – God see disobedience!)

1 Samuel 15:22-23 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to **obey is better than sacrifice**, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For **rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft**, and **stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry**. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

Jonah, the Backslider

Backsliding = turning away

We all sin. Backsliding is more than sinning against God. It has to do with the turning of the heart away from the Lord. Backsliding is to commit spiritual adultery as Israel was married to Jehovah and the Church is married to Christ.

Jeremiah 3:8-9 ...backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery...

Romans 7:4 ...that ye should be married to another, *even* to him who is raised from the dead...

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

➤ **There is never a good reason to backslide**

ILL Jonah – the Assyrians are mean and I do not like them...Seems like a good reason humanly speaking, but the Lord does not buy it.

➤ **Some truths about backsliding that Jonah teaches us**

- It costs to backslide

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: **so he paid the fare thereof**, and went down into it...

- It is a downward path

Jonah 1:3-5 But **Jonah rose up to flee** unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and **went down** to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and **went down into it**...But Jonah was **gone down into the sides of the ship**; and he lay, and was fast asleep. (Then went down into the belly of a whale – down, down, down)

- It leads to apathy

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares...But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Revelation 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

God cares about eternal souls, innocent people, and has mercy on animals

Jonah 4:11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle?

- Cannot escape the fact that you are a Christian

Jonah 1:8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou?

- Even the world knew that he was a Christian

Jonah 1:6-7 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, **call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us**, that we perish not....And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. **So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.**

Luke 22:54-60 ...And Peter followed afar off...But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this *fellow* also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen...And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest...

- Backsliding will turn one into a hypocrite

Jonah's words and actions do not line up – does he fear God?

Jonah 1:9-10 And **he said** unto them, I *am* an Hebrew; and **I fear the LORD**, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry *land*. Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men **knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD**...

- Backsliding leads to despair

Jonah 1:12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

- God is not done with you until God decides

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah...

- Recovery is only a prayer away

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

➤ **God desires the backslider to return**

Jeremiah 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you...

Jeremiah 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, *and* I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou *art* the LORD our God.

Hosea 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Jonah, Running from God

You can run, but you cannot hide.

God knows all

Psalms 139:1-6 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways. For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it.

This can be comforting or convicting. What does God think about us? Ps. 139:17-18; Ps. 40:5 & 40: 17

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

God did not need to know where Adam was. Rather, He was trying to get His attention. God uses conscience to get the attention of the lost and He uses the indwelling Holy Spirit and circumstances to get the attention of the saved.

When Jesus wrote in the sand, the lost were convicted of their own sin:

John 8:8-9 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

God is everywhere

Psalms 139:7-10 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Where is God? Where isn't He?

Isaiah 57:15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy...

Psalms 139:11-12 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*.

Jonah was inside the belly of a whale in the bottom of the sea – God was there!

Jonah 2:2 And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice.

You cannot run from God

Instead of running from God, we ought to be frank and honest with Him.

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

Psalms 139:24 And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We ought to allow our heart to be exposed to His conviction of our sin.

Psalms 62:8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God *is* a refuge for us. Selah.

- Remember who we are

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

- We will be tested – will we obey God or not / will we obey the Scriptures or not

Deuteronomy 13:1-3 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the **LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.**

Deuteronomy 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Psalms 66:10 For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Jeremiah 17:10 **I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins,** even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith,** saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Obedience is paramount - 1 Sam. 15:22-23 Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft!

Jonah, the Chastened Man

Jonah was running from the Lord. The Lord tries to get his attention in several ways:

Jonah 1:4 But the LORD sent out a **great wind** into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

Jonah 1:6 So the **shipmaster came to him**, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

Jonah 1:7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and **the lot fell upon Jonah**.

Jonah 1:8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, **for whose cause this evil *is* upon us**; What *is* thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou?

God will use circumstances to get a person to get right with the Lord. Once a son, always a son.

Instead of getting right with the Lord, Jonah asks to die:

Jonah 1:12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

Jonah would have died, but the Lord intervened.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah decides to get right with the Lord while inside the belly of the whale.

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

Why wait until you have hit rock bottom to get right with the Lord.

When you got born again, God became your Father. That is a wonderful thing.

Father – unconditional love

Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee...

Father – greater love for children than for others' children

Psalms 4:3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself...

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do...

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Father – provides for children (Matt. 6:25-34)

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Father – gives good things to children

Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Father – cannot control the heart of a rebel

Luke 15:13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

Romans 2:6-8 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Father – will chasten his own

Hebrews 12:6-7 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Father – chastens us for our own good

Hebrews 12:10-11 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Two choices – obey or rebel

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 And it shall come to pass, if thou **shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD** thy God, **to observe and to do all** his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou **wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD** thy God, **to observe to do all** his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Saul: And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? (Acts 9:6)

Jonah the Shy Preacher

Jonah, called of God, was a preacher. When one runs from God, they lose their boldness. A backslidden preacher becomes shy. We will see that Jonah was bold when right with God:

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah ran from God, and was questioned by the world about his status:

Jonah 1:8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou?

This pointed question must have gone home to Jonah's conscience. Jonah's business as a preacher was to be a servant, called of God to live for God, to despise things of this earth and to behold things of heaven. He was to speak for God so as to lead others heavenward.

- When one is out of sorts with the Lord, you can lose hope.

Jonah 1:12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

- When one is far from the Lord, you can become cowardly. Outspoken Peter became shy!

Luke 22:57-60 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. And **after a little** while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And **about the space of one hour**...And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately...the cock crew.

- When rejection is great, we can tire of serving and become frustrated.

Jer 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

- When one's body is worn out / burnt out, we can become cowardly

1 Kings 19:3-4 And when he saw *that*, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which *belongeth* to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

The need is so great. There is only one life. Suppose Jonah had perished on the sea and Nineveh had not gotten the message.

This world needs us. In one sense, we are all "called to preach."

Romans 10:13-14 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

The Christian life is a high calling

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

The saved are chosen of God, called to be saints, beloved of God as little children. We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth and need to see the great privilege we have as children of God. It ought to cause us to become a servant / bond slave for Jesus Christ.

Paul was writing this as a prisoner of the Lord. There are some places where one cannot freely serve. Let us be grateful for the opportunity we have here in the USA.

The Laborers have always been few

Ezekiel 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

We have divine help

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost...

The results are left up to God

Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

Our job is to sow the seed. Our job is to obey the command to preach the gospel to every creature.

Rewards will be given / Labor is not in vain

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Hebrews 6:10 For God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Jonah Praying to God

God will work on your heart / and circumstances to get you back to Him

❖ Willfulness is Satan-like

Isaiah 14:12-14 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

❖ Submission is Christ-like

Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

“I will do what I want.” If you are a child of God, God will encourage you to return to Him. He does this thru circumstances. God uses circumstances in the life of His children to teach us valuable lessons.

1. God is teaching Jonah to obey and yield to the will of God.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had **prepared a great fish** to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2. God is teaching Jonah a lesson – that God loves sinners.

Jonah 4:6-8 And the **LORD God prepared a gourd**, and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God **prepared a worm** when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that **God prepared a vehement east wind**; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.*

Jonah 4:10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

If Jonah had mercy on the gourd, should not God have mercy on sinners of Nineveh? (Jonah 4:11)

In the first lesson, Jonah prays in response to God’s working. In the second lesson, we are not told how Jonah responded.

3. Jonah prays

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

How long was Jonah inside the fish?

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Emotions Jonah may have had – anger, frustration, this is unfair, hatred for Ninevehites, mad that God allowed him to stay alive, willful rebellion...but God was going to break his will.

Perhaps Jonah was mad at the fish. Then realized, the fish was his preservation, not his destruction. What we think is bad for us, may very well be what is good for us.

Heb. 12:10-11 ...that we might be **partakers of his holiness**. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward **it yieldeth** the peaceable fruit of righteousness...

2 Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Poverty may cause us to trust the Lord. Affliction causes us to appreciate what God does.

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

- We can pray anywhere

Jonah 2:1-2 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice.

1 Tim.2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

"By reason of mine affliction;" "out of the belly of hell;" "in the deep, in the midst of the seas;" "The floods compassed me about, all thy billows and thy waves passed over me;" "out of thy sight;" "The depths closed me round about, the weeds were wrapt about my head;" "I went down to the bottom of the mountains, the earth with her bars were about me forever." Situation seemed absolutely hopeless

- Pray in our necessity – having problems? Jonah did – and prayed. Things seem hopeless? Pray

Jonah 2:3-4 For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

- Prayer can bring supernatural help - never underestimate what God can do / will do

Jonah 2:5-6 The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

Joshua 10:12-13 Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. *Is* not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day.

- Pray in your distress

Jonah 2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer...

Psalms 120:1 A Song of degrees. In my distress I cried unto the LORD, and he heard me.

Psalms 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

Prayer from the depths of the ocean can be heard in the heights of heaven. You are never too far from God.

- Pray toward the holy temple (O.T.) – where the mercy seat is

Jonah 2:7 ...and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

Why pray toward the Temple? The Mercy Seat is there – where God will meet with sinners!

Exodus 25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which *are* upon the ark of the testimony, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

When they sinned – they prayed toward the Temple – and God forgave!

1 Kings 8:30 ...when they shall **pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.**

1 Kings 8:35-36 ...they have sinned against thee; if they **pray toward this place**, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them...Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin...

1 Kings 8:42-49 ...when he shall come and **pray toward this house**; Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place...If thy people go out to battle against their enemy...and shall **pray unto the LORD toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house** that I have built for thy name: Then hear thou in heaven their prayer...If they sin against thee...*Yet* if they shall...repent, and make supplication unto thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned...and **pray unto thee toward their land**, ...the city which thou hast chosen, and the house...Then hear thou their prayer and their supplication...

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Throne of Grace - - the Blood is on the Mercy Seat!

When we pray – it is the Blood that we plead. The MERCY SEAT is just that – a place of mercy!

I have sinned – avoid God. NO --- I have sinned, plead the Blood.

- Our way / our willfulness = no forgiveness from God

Jonah 2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

"They who follow their own inventions, as Jonah had done, when he fled from the presence of the lord to go to Tarshish, forsake their own mercy, that mercy which they may find in God." HENRY

"Jonah had 'forsaken His own mercy,' God, to flee to heathen lands where "lying vanities" (idols) were worshipped." JFB

"Those who are led away by foolish groundless fancies, and, like him, they *forsake their own mercy*, and no good can come of it. I think Jonah is saying – I was stupid – I made my will an idol, and forsook mercy - - until I submitted my will to God...and now I can have mercy." PASTOR DAVE COMMENTS

Human devices contrary to will of God are "lying vanities;" empty, they bring no satisfaction; lying, they promise peace and safety, but bring misery and horrible troubles. So Eve found, so Pharaoh, so Israel when they went after ways of heathen. So Jonah himself. So all who forsake Fountain of living waters and hew out to themselves broken cisterns that can hold no water. Worldly devices to get happiness apart from God are indeed "vanity of vanities." PULPIT HELPS

- Prayer – to be answered – must submit to God

Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:

Jonah 2:9 But **I will** sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; **I will** pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.

- Answer to prayer is given

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

While he was praying, the whale was moving in the direction of Nineveh!

It is always easier and less messy to obey the Lord.
One never butts heads with the Lord and wins.
We can learn from others to help us avoid difficulty.

Jonah Speaking for God

God of a 2nd Chance

Jonah had a specific call – and refused. When one disobeys the Lord – then they get right with God, the next step is to obey what was told the first time.

Jonah 3:1-2 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

ILL Father told his son, “Put a log on the fire.” The son responded, “I’m 18 and tired of obeying you. I will leave home and live my life the way I want.” The son left. A couple of months later the son returned and apologized. The father replied, “All is forgiven. Now son, put a log on the fire.”

The only real answer to the working of the Lord in your life – is to obey whatever He wants. We should learn early in life that we need to submit to the Lord.

The call to an area

Nineveh – a wicked city / hence Jonah did not want them saved as they had persecuted and killed his kin

The Assyrians used torture as they brought severed heads after battles; put men on a stake and flayed them alive with a razor; dismembered and displayed the victims at gates of a temple near Mosul. Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria.

It was a great city. Recent discoveries have found Nineveh to be made up of four large primeval cities. It would take three days to go around them as they are sixty miles in circumference.

Its walls were one hundred feet high and three chariots could be driven abreast on them. They had fifteen hundred towers each two hundred feet in height. It is estimated that one million souls lived there.

The need of the unsaved

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

The heart of the LORD

God loves sinners / as our heart beats with the heart of God, we too will see the lost as God does

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.

1 John 2:2 And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but **also for the sins of the whole world**.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the **Lord that bought them...**

The response – Nineveh repented

Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

Jonah 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

When God announces judgment, he extends mercy.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Isaiah 28:21 For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

His wrath is a *strange act*. Mercy and grace are characteristics of the Lord. Wrath is unusual due to His character of mercy, grace, love, and longsuffering.

“The work of judgment and punishment may be called the "strange" work of God always, inasmuch as it is not that in which he delights to engage, and is foreign to the benevolence of his heart. It is especially so when his own people are the objects of his displeasure, and when their sins are such as to demand that he should visit them with the tokens of his wrath.” BARNES

Application: The need of the unsaved is always the same – redemption

Only by the grace of God that you were born in America. Don't judge lost people that have no Bible – they are ignorant of truth. We need to be merciful to the lost.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

All we know about the Bible – and all that the lost does not know -- it is our job to warn.

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For **unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Our area – scores of unsaved / lost without Christ / sin abounding

We only live one life. How do we adjust our life to have *witnessing to the lost* included in it?

Use tracts on regular basis / Partake in a united church effort / Speak up as the Lord leads / Befriend lost people

Jonah was a sign to Nineveh

Luke 11:29-30 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a **sign**; and there shall no **sign** be given it, but the **sign** of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a **sign** unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

God will use the men of Nineveh at the Great White Throne Judgment

Luke 11:32 The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

Jonah Learning of God

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

What displeased Jonah?

Jonah 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did *it* not.

The ultimate reason why Jonah refused to go to Nineveh:

Jonah 4:2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? **Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness,** and repentest thee of the evil.

Jonah refused to summon the Ninevites to repentance for fear they might take him at his word. Their reformation just now would not have suited his views. As heathen people, he disliked them.

God had a latent teaching for Israel. If God spared Nineveh, surely He would have mercy on Israel, if they would only repent and heed the warnings of the prophets.

God had foretold that He would use Assyria to correct Israel (See also Isa. 7:17)

Hosea 11:1-5 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt...He shall not return into the land of Egypt, but the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to return.

Jonah is absorbed in self-pity

Jonah 4:3 ...O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live.

Is this wrong? Of course it is wrong. Is this human? Yes, and you would be surprised at the great men and women that have passed thru this valley of despair.

Numbers 20:3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

1 Kings 19:4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

Job 6:8-9 Oh that I might have my request; and that God would grant *me* the thing that I long for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand, and cut me off!

Jeremiah 20:14-15 Cursed *be* the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed. Cursed *be* the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee...

Pouting and self-pity are a waste of time and are rooted in self. Everyone experiences times like these, we need to shorten the time spent here and move on with the reality of life from God's view.

1. God is teaching Jonah to obey and yield to the will of God.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had **prepared a great fish** to swallow up Jonah...

Now, he is to trust God to love and save whom He will rather than what we think of sinners.

What if God saved a child molester; a rapist; a murderer; Mr. Putin.... We must yield our will and our wants and allow God to do what He desires.

2. God is teaching Jonah a lesson – that God loves sinners.

Jonah 4:6-8 And the **LORD God prepared a gourd**, and made *it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God **prepared a worm**...and it smote the gourd that it withered. And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that **God prepared a vehement east wind**; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, *It is better for me to die than to live.*

Jonah was angry that God spared Nineveh and now he is angry again – at a gourd

Jonah 4:9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, *even unto death.*

Jonah 4:10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

If Jonah had mercy on the gourd, should not God have mercy on sinners of Nineveh? (Jonah 4:11)

Wish no ill on any human. Instead, pity them and pray for them. Did Jonah really want the Ninevites to burn in hell forever? Would any human take gratification in watching this occur?

Questions from the Lord that Jonah did not answer

Jonah 4:4 Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?

Jonah 4:11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and *also* much cattle?

In response to the first question, Jonah goes out and pouts. In regards to the second question, we are not told what he did or how he responded. Did he get bitter? Did he agree with God?

The book of Jonah is referred to as the John 3:16 of the Old Testament

Truly God loves sinners. In time, Jonah's heart would come to agreement with the Lord that it was a wonderful thing that Nineveh was spared. May our heart beat with the heart of God in seeing this world and its lost condition. God loves sinners. Our actions should verify that we also love the lost.

Nahum

Does God enjoy pouring out His wrath / Does God desire wrath?

Humans may want to emphasize the wrath of God; but God emphasizes His mercy and love.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Wrath – a response to rejection by humans. Jonah teaches us the mercy of God, in spite of the terrible, wicked, vile things the Assyrians did. But now in Nahum, God’s response to man’s sin brings His wrath.

Nahum 1:9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end...

Nahum 1:11 There is *one* come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor.

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it *is* all full of lies *and* robbery; the prey departeth not;

Nahum 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

Attributes of God

Nahum 1:2 God *is* **jealous**, and the LORD **revenge**; the LORD revenge, and *is* **furious**; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies.

Deuteronomy 6:15 (For the LORD thy **God is a jealous God** among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 32:43 Rejoice, O ye nations, *with* his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will **render vengeance** to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, *and* to his people.

Isaiah 13:9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and **fierce anger**, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

Jealousy – God is envious of no one, but since He is the only true God, He is jealous over His glory, His name, and the worship and honor that are due to Him alone.

Vengeance – God takes revenge due to His holiness

Anger – God’s anger is under control, as he is (Nahum 1:3) slow to anger.

There comes a time when God has had enough

Genesis 15:16 ...for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.

Matthew 23:33-35 *Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.*

Revelation 16:5-6 ...Thou art righteous, O Lord...because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Revelation 16:7 ...Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

Psalms 19:9 ...the judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.

Nahum 1:7 The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Some take offense that God has a side to Him that is wrathful. However, there is a glorious side to God – I deserve wrath and justice for my sin; but God has given me mercy. Mercy is found at the Mercy Seat – where the blood was placed! It is the blood that provides sinful humans mercy.

Ephesians 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Response of humans determine mercy or wrath

The same sun that melts wax hardens clay. The Lord is the same to all. It is the response of the human heart that determines the destiny of each one.

- The blood – will acquit you or condemn you.

1 John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

- The Lord Jesus Christ – you will either confess Him as Lord on earth, or you will confess Him as Lord in your condemnation.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Nahum

Chapter 1	Nineveh's Doom Declared
Chapter 2	Nineveh's Doom Described
Chapter 3	Nineveh's Doom Deserved

- **The Goodness of God**

Nah 1:7 The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and **he knoweth** them that trust in him.

2 Tim 2:19 ...the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his...

He knows His sheep / His sheep know Him

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine.

John 10:27-29 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all *men*, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

Calvinist are quick to point out Scriptures from the book of Romans. A Biblical rebuke to Calvinism is found in Romans, as **God deals with humans in response to the heart of each man**.

Romans 2:6-8 Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

As Ruth is a gem in the midst of the time of the Judges, even so Nahum 1:7 is a nugget in midst of judgment. God is gracious to all and slow to anger to those who anger Him.

Jonah 4:2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, *was* not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that **thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness**, and repentest thee of the evil.

Nahum 1:3 The **LORD is slow to anger**, and great in power, and will not at all acquit *the wicked*: the LORD *hath* his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds *are* the dust of his feet.

- **His Power** ought to cause us to fear Him and submit to Him.

Nahum 1:4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

Nahum 1:5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

- **His Wrath** ought to cause us to fear Him and submit to Him

Nahum 1:6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

- **God's Goodness & Severity**

Romans 11:22 Behold therefore **the goodness and severity of God**: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

God's goodness through Jonah; His severity through Nahum. What is the difference? The response of the Ninevehites...

We have a sense of morality that desires a sense of justice, fair-play, and a demand that the wicked does not get away with their cruel and vile actions. We can rest assure that the Creator has the right to do as He pleases and He has revealed to us His character and nature within the Bible.

He is all powerful, all holy, and yes, all love. God showed His power in creation (Genesis); His holiness in Leviticus and the first mention of God's love is in Deuteronomy:

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- **God's Mercy & Justice**

Exodus 34:6-7 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

Chapter 1 Nineveh's Doom Declared

About 140 years after Jonah preached and Nineveh repented, Nahum now declares its destruction.

Their contempt for God

Nahum 1:9 What do ye imagine **against the LORD**? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

Nahum 1:11 There is *one* come out of thee, that imagineth evil **against the LORD**, a wicked counsellor.

Nahum 1:14 And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, *that* no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I **cut off the graven image and the molten image**: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile. (These are *instead / in the place* of the Lord)

There is immense danger to come against the Lord. The Assyrians did this often as Sennacherib did during the reign of Hezekiah. This would correspond with the timing of Nahum.

Isaiah 36:18-20 *Beware* lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where *are* the gods of Hamath and Arphad? where *are* the gods of Sepharvaim? and have they delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who *are they* among all the gods of these lands, that have delivered their land out of my hand, that the LORD should deliver Jerusalem out of my hand?

Hezekiah's response (Isa. 37:14-20) was to pray and God defended His own reputation:

Isaiah 37:36 Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they *were* all dead corpses.

Truth about the spiritual war gleaned from David's defeat of Goliath:

1 Samuel 17:45-47 Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword...a spear...a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, **the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied**. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee...**all the earth may know that there is a God** in Israel...for **the battle is the LORD'S**...

Social sins

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it *is* all full of lies *and* robbery; the prey departeth not;

Nahum 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Nahum

Chapter 2 Nineveh's Doom Described

The Medes and Babylonians destroyed the city. The shields of their mighty men were red.

Nahum 2:3 The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men *are* in scarlet: the chariots *shall be* with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.

Their armies racing thru the city in destruction is described:

Nahum 2:4 The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

The methodology of its destruction:

Nahum 2:6 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved.

“The river wall on the Tigris (the west side of Nineveh) was 4,530 yards long. To the north, south, and east, there were large moats, capable of being filled with water from the Khosru. Dams for regulating the supply are still visible, so that the whole city could be surrounded with a water barrier” JFB

That which was their protection (water) – did not protect them!

“The river being swollen with continual rains, overflowed every part of the city, and broke down the wall for twenty furlongs; then the king, casting aside all hope of safety and fear he would fall into the hands of the enemy, built a large funeral pile in the palace, collected all his gold, silver, and royal vestments, together with his concubines and eunuchs, placed himself with them in a little apartment built in the pyre; burnt them, himself, and the palace together. When the death of the king (Sardanapalus) was announced by certain deserters, the enemy entered at the breach that the waters had made and took the city.”
Ironsides Commentary & Clarke Commentary

This once glorious city is destroyed

Nahum 2:8 But Nineveh *is* of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, *shall they cry*; but none shall look back.

Nahum 2:10 She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain *is* in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

Nahum 3:7 And it shall come to pass, *that* all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

Zephaniah 2:13-15 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make **Nineveh a desolation**, *and* dry like a wilderness. And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; *their* voice

shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work. **This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me:** how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, *and* wag his hand.

The wrath of God is a terrible thing

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

The dividing line – is God with you or against you?

Nahum 2:13 Behold, **I am against thee**, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth...

These same words are used as Russia attempts to attack Israel in Eze. 38-39

Ezekiel 38:3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

Ezekiel 39:1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

The other side – “I am with thee”

20 times the Bible says ‘*I am with thee*’ or ‘*I will be with thee.*’

Isaiah 41:10 Fear thou not; for I *am* with thee: be not dismayed; for I *am* thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God has in store a glorious future

Isaiah 19:18-19 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

Isaiah 19:23-25 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, *even* a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

Nahum

Chapter 3 Nineveh's Doom Deserved

1. The great wickedness of Nineveh 3:1-7
2. Her fate is like that of No 3:8-13
3. Her deserved & complete judgment 3:14-19

The great wickedness of Nineveh 3:1-7

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it *is* all full of lies *and* robbery; the prey departeth not;

“Her kings never knew peace, but were constantly at war. They boasted of making the blood of their enemies run like rivers. It was a city full of lies. Her word could not be trusted; she broke truces and covenants and deceived nations with lying promises of help and protection. As stated in the second chapter, she was ferocious as a lion.”

GABAELEIN

Nahum 3:4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

The chief deity of Nineveh was Ishtar, goddess of sexual passion, fertility and war. The Assyrians were under the control of lust, greed and violence.

Many think the Lord will by-pass their great wickedness. Remember Sodom and Gomorrah.

Jude 1:7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, **are set forth for an example**, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

We are to learn from the past dealing of Jehovah.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Luke 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

We would avoid a lot of heartache if we would allow the mistakes of others to help us.

Her fate is like that of No-Amon 3:8-13

The Assyrians had defeated this Egyptian city in 663 B.C.. It too had water to protect them, but it was to no avail. That which they did to *No*, will be done to them.

No had great protection and help.

Nahum 3:8-9 ...No, ...*that had* the waters round about it, whose rampart *was* the sea, *and* her wall *was* from the sea? Ethiopia and Egypt *were* her strength, and *it was* infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

Her deserved & complete judgment 3:14-19

This magnificent city would become a heap of ruins.

Nahum 3:7 And it shall come to pass, *that* all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

The simplicity of their fall: “All thy strong holds *shall be like* fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.” Nahum 3:12

Their ‘higher ups’ type people will flee as locusts flee when the sun arises.

Nahum 3:17 Thy crowned *are* as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, *but* when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they *are*.

Nahum 3:19 *There is* no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

This book ends with a question. Would their wickedness go unjudged and by-passed by Jehovah? The application is for us today.

Mass shooting are common; abortion is the law; late-term abortion is legal; babies born alive in botched abortions are killed; LGBT is accepted; and gay marriage is old history. Will the Lord do anything about this? Time will tell. Prophecy speaks of the coming Tribulation Period as a time of God’s wrath. God foreknew this era would be here.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin *is* a reproach to any people.

Afterthought

Some think that some Bible references to both “The Assyrian” and “The King of Babylon” are referring to the Antichrist. Some think he will be a Jew:

Daniel 11:37 Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all.

Antichrist will probably be a Jew from Syria (from Daniel – as perfect antitype of Antiochus Epiphanes) and an Assyrian as he will likely be intertwined with Babylon, the \$\$ economic center of the world.

(See A.W. Pink’s ‘The Antichrist’)