

Righting Every Wrong

The Book of Nahum

Video clip – I guess I’m still in VBS mode! Sorry I didn’t dress the part!

The Avengers had a 1 in 14,000,605 chance of winning the war against Thanos! **Things were not looking good for “Earth’s Mightiest Heroes!”**

Dr. Strange had the ability to look forward in time to see all the possible outcomes of this cosmic battle between good & evil! What if we (the Church), as we are engaged in a cosmic war against evil as well, had that same ability?

What if I told you we don’t need it, because **our victory is not left to any statistical probability but to a divine reality!** The outcome is not in question!

We may be face to face with our own inability to defeat the evils of our day (like the Avengers), but we as God’s people can acknowledge that we don’t have to, because God will?

Too often we think God needs us to fight His battles for Him! We, Christians today, **are called to be ambassadors of God’s Kingdom, not warriors!**

We don’t have to fear when evil seems to prevail, because the future of evil is certain! When Jesus returns, all evil will be finally defeated, and judgment will come upon every force that sets itself against the Kingdom of God!

That should change the way we look at things today, despite how they appear!

Nahum was a prophet who reminds us that evil will not win, judgment is coming, and it’s coming at the hands of the mightiest, & perfect, judge!

Remember Nineveh? Remember Jonah? Nineveh’s repentance was short lived, & their evil hearts turned against God, & God’s people! **The Assyrians attacked & destroyed the Northern Kingdom & claimed victory over Israel’s God!**

If Jonah was still around, he may have felt vindicated! But Jonah’s story was not about being right in his judgment of Nineveh, it was about doing what was right before His God!

Jonah was upset because he thought sin/sinners were getting off the hook, but God was never going to let that happen if Nineveh didn’t change their ways!

Nineveh’s repentance spared them from God’s wrath, but not for long, **Their repentance was short lived, thus re-igniting God’s righteous anger against them.**

Jonah’s anger was never righteous, only God’s anger can achieve that! What about us, & our anger towards the evils of our day? Is it righteous?

Nahum’s prophecy reminds us that in our anger towards evil, we must not respond with sin, **but leave room for God to be God – the true Avenger!**

- ***“The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.” (1:2)*** How does that change things for us?
- ***“The Lord is slow to anger & great in power, & the Lord will by no means clear the guilty...” (1:3)*** How can we have a more balanced approach?
- ***“He rebukes the sea...”, “The mountains quake before him...”, “The earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it.” (1:4-5)***
- ***“Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger?” (1:6)*** No one can, and no one will, apart from Christ!
- ***“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.” (1:7)*** What a comfort! God’s got this & us!
- ***“But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries...” (1:8)*** We don’t have to concern ourselves with such things!
- ***“What do you plot against the Lord? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time...” (1:9)*** Evil will be vanquished!
- ***“Thus says the Lord, “Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.” (1:12)*** The truth about them/us/God will prevail!
- ***“Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace!” (1:15)*** Our job is to be ambassadors!
- ***Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows... (1:15)*** Let us not concern ourselves with the status of the wicked, but let us do what is right by God and entrust the rest to Him!

We know the future, because we know the God who is bringing it to be!

How freeing it is for us to not have to right every wrong in this world, but to simply focus on representing well the Kingdom we claim to belong to!

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