

## Life-Study of Nahum and Habakkuk

### Introduction - Nahum

- Whereas Jonah brought, or extended, God's **salvation** to Nineveh, Nahum brought God's **judgment** upon the evil city.
- In Hebrew Nahum means "comfort" and "avenge."
- The **central thought** of Nahum is that Jehovah judged Assyria, avenging Israel of her enemy to restore her for her comfort.

### Jehovah as the Majestic Judge

- As the **judge**, Jehovah is a **jealous God** and **One who avenges**.
- The **majesty** of Jehovah as the Judge can be seen in Nahum 1:4-6.

### Jehovah's Judgment on Nineveh

- First, the Judge pronounces His verdict concerning **Nineveh's destruction** by the Medes and Babylonians.
- The destruction of Nineveh is for the **restoration of the excellency of Israel**.
- The main point of the book of Nahum is that while God was **chastising** Israel and **punishing** the nations, He always did what was necessary to **preserve** Israel for the purpose of **manifesting Christ**.

### Introduction - Habakkuk

- In Hebrew Habakkuk means "embracing" or "clinging to," signifying that **we need to seek God by embracing Him or clinging to Him**.
- The saving God came out of eternity into time, out of the heavens to earth, and out of divinity into humanity to be a man. In this way He could **embrace** man and man could **cling** to Him.
- **Subject:** The righteous judgment of God first on Israel by the Chaldeans and then on the Chaldeans by the nations.
- **Central Thought:** The righteous God will judge **both** the evil Israel and the violent Chaldeans, and **only the righteous one shall live by his faith**, that all the earth may know the glory of Jehovah and be silent before Jehovah, who is in His holy temple, and that His seeker may sing to Him in prayer, in lauding, and in trusting in Him.

## **The Dialogue Between the Prophet and Jehovah**

- The revelation concerning God's eternal salvation to sinners was brought out by a **conversation** between the prophet and God.
  - The prophet inquired of Jehovah concerning the iniquity, distress, destruction, and contention that he saw.
  - Jehovah said that He was raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, who would come to do violence and devastation on Judah.
- The **first dialogue** between the prophet and Jehovah is in 1:12-2:1.
  - The prophet asked why Jehovah keeps silent when the Chaldeans swallow up His elect.
  - Jehovah told him to write the vision plainly upon tablets. Jehovah went on to say that the vision was yet for an appointed time and that it hastened toward the end and would not lie.
- **Hab. 2:4** – “See, he who is puffed up, his soul is not upright within him,/But the righteous one will live by his faith.”
  - Only Habakkuk shows us **God's eternal salvation** to sinners. Here, to live means to have life and live.
  - **The unique way** for sinners to obtain God's eternal salvation is to **believe** in God's embodiment, Christ, that they may become **righteous** and be **justified** to have life and live.
- The **second dialogue** between the prophet and Jehovah, Jehovah spoke concerning the five woes to the Chaldeans.
  - Because the Chaldeans had plundered many nations, the Chaldeans would be plundered and made booty to the nations.
  - Because of their taking evil gain for their houses by violence, the stone would cry out from the wall of their houses.
  - The Chaldeans would receive the righteous recompense for building cities by bloodshed and establishing towns by iniquity.
  - Because the Chaldeans made their neighbor drunken with poison in order to look at their nakedness and did violence, destruction, and bloodshed to their cities, they would be sated with shame.
  - Because the Chaldeans made the graven idol, the molten idol, and the dumb idols, they would be cheated by the idols and gain no profit.

### **The Prophet's Song to Jehovah**

- Habakkuk 3 is the prophet's song to Jehovah.
  - First we have the prophet's song in [prayer](#).
  - In [lauding](#), the prophet praised God in His majesty and splendor, in His terrifying judgment on the nations, and in His salvation of His people and of His anointed one.
  - In verses 16-19, the prophet declares his [trust](#) in Jehovah.
- Verses 16-19 seem very good, but for the most part they express Habakkuk's natural concept, without much revelation of Christ.
  - We need to be brought into the [realm of Christ](#). In this way, instead of "trusting" in the Lord, we will realize that we are in Christ and that Christ is in us.

### **Christ as the Linking Factor in Micah, Jonah, and Habakkuk and the Bible as the Divine Revelation Given by God's Speaking Through Man**

- Micah 5:2 shows that Christ is the [eternal One](#); His origin is eternity. But one day He was [born as a man](#) in Bethlehem. Thus, here we have Christ's origin and birth.
- Jonah 1:17 shows Jonah as a type of Christ, who [died](#), who was [in the heart of the earth](#) three days and three nights, and who then was [resurrected](#).
- In the book of Jonah, Jehovah's salvation was brought to the most evil city of the Gentiles through the preaching of the prophet.
  - Today God's salvation has come to us through the preaching of the gospel.
- We need to see that Christ, the eternal One, has gone forth in His incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection and that His going forth is continuing today as more believers are added to Him.

(Life-Study of Nahum and Habakkuk)