

June 15, 2025  
Return: The Majesty of God  
Nahum 2-3  
Vernon Advent Christian Church

Community Groups:

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” – Acts 2:42

Purpose Statement:

Community Groups function as a **multi-generational** expression of the larger body of VACC and are centered around the **Word of God, Fellowship, the Breaking of Bread and Prayer**. These **weekly** groups exist to **equip believers** to grow in Christ, **cultivate unity** through meaningful relationships, accountability, and the use of our gifts and to **provide witness** to friends and neighbors by modeling the Gospel of Jesus Christ in community. We're going to walk through the statement...

Training this summer and launching in September. We need your prayer, your patience and your support.

Introduction... We have come to the end of our time in the Book of Nahum. We have spent the majority of our time in chapter 1 as we've considered the goodness of God and the promise of his ultimate victory over his enemies. Now we turn our attention to the last 2 chapters that tell us, in great detail, about the final destruction of Nineveh and the Assyrian Empire. But Nahum's prophecy is not just a declaration of God's judgment. It's a celebration of God's justice and a message of comfort for God's people. But with all the death and destruction promised, what could this possibly have to say to us and how in the world can it be a message of hope and comfort?

A.W. Tozer in his book entitled "Pursuit of God" famously said: “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” What comes to your mind this morning when you think about God and his judgement on his enemies as a whole and Nineveh more specifically? What attributes would be on the list? Holiness? Righteous wrath, maybe? Well, hopefully one of those attributes you would list would be God's "majesty". Our word majesty comes from the Latin word meaning "greatness".

And the word majesty, when we apply it to God, is always a means of declaring his ultimate “greatness” over all things and an invitation to worship him and him alone. If we are going to worship God rightly, if we are going to be a people who truly live by faith no matter what our circumstances are, then we need a right view of God's greatness, his majesty, not just in the beautiful vistas all around us but also in his divine judgment.

And what I want us to understand this morning, above all else, is that God's majesty demands our worship. And the defeat of Nineveh, as told in the last two chapters of Nahum, gives us at least four reasons why. Now, we're not going to read both chapters in their entirety, but we will read through a few select passages as we talk through these points.

The first reason why the defeat of Nineveh demonstrates God's majesty is it demonstrates his unconditional love. Now, for many of us, our natural response to the destruction that is spoken of by Nahum here is to be horrified. And understandably so, this is a horrific judgement so how could this speak of God's unconditional love? Now, we could talk about how God is just and holy for condemning Nineveh, and we have already done that over the last couple of weeks.

But again, as we talked about last week, this book is not written to Nineveh. It is instead written to Israel about Nineveh. That is important for us to remember, because it changes the focus of the book. Instead of being a guilty verdict by an uncaring judge, it is instead a declaration of unconditional love and protection from the God of Israel to his people.

I mean, it's Father's day right? How should a husband and father respond, if he was out of town and someone came into his house, beat his wife, kidnapped his children and stole everything that wasn't nailed down. Any husband who truly loves his family, would come in with vengeance, seeking retribution and seeking to eliminate any threat to his family. This is what Nineveh had done to the nations and this explains how God is acting against them, in unconditional, steadfast love, not for Nineveh, but for his people. So in the end, it is about Israel and not Nineveh. Look with me at 2:1-2. [Read 2:1-2]

If you were the oppressed and defeated people of God, and Yahweh, the God of the Israelites was your God, what would these words mean to you? They would be sweet words of love, mercy, and grace wouldn't they? Words of love, because God is coming to protect you. Mercy and grace because the plundering, which is spoken of here, was God's loving discipline in your life, and yet, God is still protecting and restoring you no matter what. And given that this love letter is coming from God, it would lead you to sweet worship. God is coming to the rescue even though they didn't deserve it!

God's unconditional love, is a selfless, sacrificial love that is freely given without any conditions or requirements from those who receive it. It's a love that is not based on merit, performance, or any action on our part, but rather on God's own good nature and character. It's not something that can be earned or deserved through good deeds or simply doing all the right things. God's love is unwavering and enduring, lasting forever. And it doesn't fail or change based on circumstances or our behavior.

God's unconditional love is the foundation for the plan of salvation, offering redemption and reconciliation with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We often marvel in at the things we see around us, "Wow, look at the size of that building," or, "Wow, look at that sunset." And we should. But God's unconditional love ought to also cause us to marvel even more. That God would love his children so much not only to provide undeserved salvation through his Messiah, but also, his destruction of the enemy and all evil. Both demonstrate his unconditional love.

The second reason why the defeat of Nineveh demonstrates God's majesty is his prophetic wisdom. And what I mean by prophetic wisdom is God's ability of foresight and his wise planning of events from the very beginning. In other words, nothing catches God by surprise, there is no other Marvel 'What If...' alternate universe, and everything happens just the way God determined that it would.

When this book was written, all the surrounding nations feared the Assyrians. And Israel was no different. In fact, in a few minutes, we will look at how the fall of Nineveh would have seemed ridiculous to them as they heard this message. Yet, well in advance of it even happening, God revealed to Nahum the fall of Nineveh and even some of the major details of the final battle.

These chapters describe the defeat of Nineveh and they give us specific details about how the city is utterly destroyed. Although there are a few other instances here, for time's sake, we are going to look at one of the more unusual ones and that was the role of a flood in the downfall of the city. Let's take a look at ch.2:6-8. [Read]

What's striking is that, indeed, a flood did lead to the defeat of Nineveh. According to history, Nineveh was not ultimately conquered by being starved out or by the armies of Babylon being able to climb over the wall. But by a major flood. It just so happened that after a torrential rain-fall, a flood destroyed a major section of the wall and left Nineveh totally helpless and the city of Nineveh melted away just as God said that it would.

What do these details teach us about God? ...he is all-knowing and all-wise. None of us could ever accurately predicting the future. We may be able to make educated guesses. Isn't that what the weatherman tries to do? Mankind has accumulated a mass of knowledge, but it is an empty bucket compared to God. His majesty demands our attention, but most importantly, our worship.

God, from the very beginning, set his unconditional love on his people and although he used the Assyrians and their natural bent towards brutality to discipline his children, ultimately he would rescue a remnant through which the promised Messiah would come and through him both save the world and destroy evil at the same time. This is God's prophetic wisdom and it leads us to the next point.

The third reason why the defeat of Nineveh demonstrates God's majesty is his absolute power. As we've learned over the last several weeks, Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, was the world superpower of the day. No one could have dreamed of conquering them. Nineveh was heavily fortified with double walls and heavy gates, it was surrounded by water and it was home to the most powerful army in the world.

As I spoke of earlier, it certainly would have seemed impossible to the people of Judah who just hoped they would leave them alone in Jerusalem. This is the same nation that destroyed the neighboring Northern Kingdom of Israel just a few years earlier and they would have never dreamed of Nineveh falling and being utterly destroyed. It would have been unfathomable to them. Yet, Nahum says that is exactly what will happen and he attributes it to the absolute power of God. As we look at the text, notice the humiliation of the victory in 2:13-3:7, and may I say, "viewer discretion advised." [Read]

God was going to make Nineveh, the greatest city with the greatest army of the day, a spectacle to the world. Their defeat was to be so humbling that their name would be cut off, their riches plundered, their city completely destroyed and their people and army scattered across the region never to rise up again.

And again, remember this would have seemed impossible to anyone who would have heard Nahum's prediction. The Assyrian Empire is not in decline but at the height of its power. How can God help his people understand? Well, Nahum tells them about the reality

of it all by giving them the illustration of the city of Thebes in Egypt in 3:8-12 as an example. I'm going to summarize these verses for us.

Why even bring up the city of Thebes? I think the point is that Thebes was another city that was considered impossible to conquer. Thebes was thought by many to be so far down the Nile, no one could conquer it. It was a city surrounded by water and desert. Yet, it was actually the Assyrians themselves who marched over Egypt and captured this impossible city in 663 BC and they considered it their greatest conquest.

Nahum's point, Nineveh now thinks that it can't be conquered. Yet a city that was just as impossible, and just as protected by natural barriers and armed fortresses, fell at their hands. They, of all people, should have known that "where there's a will, there's a way." And there is no "will" more powerful than the will of God!

Nahum demonstrates this, as he continues on in 3:13-19, that no amount of military preparation on Nineveh's part was going to stop God's power in judgement. No matter the size of their army, it was not enough. We might think of it this way. It's like building a sand castle close to the beach. You can make it as big and strong as you want to, but when the tide starts coming in there is nothing you can do to stop the waves from washing away your castle. In the same way, God says Nineveh will melt under the flood of God's judgement.

Nahum says God's power would be absolute and history confirms that. Nineveh was left completely humiliated on the battle field. Not simply defeated, but totally destroyed.

Finally, the defeat of Nineveh demonstrates God's majesty because of his righteous justice. Vs. 3:19 gives us a short, but important, conclusion his book. [Read] Nineveh brutalized the world. They had made themselves infamous for how they brutalized the people they conquered; by beheading and skinning their enemies, separating families and sending children away into slavery, and they heavily taxed the nations which they conquered. Imagine, if you somehow survived, your city has been destroyed, your livelihood has been taken away, and then, on top of that, the Assyrians want you to pay heavy taxes or they will do it all again.

The natural feeling for anyone would be to desire justice. "Is someone going to do something about this?" Therefore, the world rejoiced when God brought an end to this oppression. There are some you who have been alive long enough to remember this, others of us just have to imagine it, but do you remember how did the world rejoiced when Germany surrendered? We still show photos of the celebration in the streets of New York when the news came that Nazi Germany had been defeated. These same emotions would have been taking place with the people of Judah with this news of God's coming triumph over a similar kind of evil.

And as we consider our text, who brought about this justice? Back to vs. 2:13. [Read] God was the one who brought about the justice the nations demanded. Justice is a term used for what is right or "as it should be." And God's word promises us that someday, when Christ comes again, God's righteous justice will finally be on full display. Shouldn't we then marvel at God's justice which then in turn should lead us to worship?

So as we consider the book of Nahum, what are we to conclude? That God is good and he protects his people and will one day justly destroy his enemies. As we consider how God does that through the promised fall of Nineveh we come to this conclusion, God deserves our worship because of his majesty.

But, the reality is we seek to worship other things, don't we? Money, power, fame... but we will always find them leaving us empty. And what that should teach us is that we need something that is not of this world. Something, or more importantly, someone that is infinitely loving, and wise, and powerful and just then anything found in this world.

This world, and all it has to offer, falls woefully short of what we truly need. Yet, as we consider how God shows his love, wisdom, power and justice doesn't our own conscious declare our need to worship and marvel at the majesty of God? As we consider this, may we realize our innermost need. If you have not trusted in Jesus, as both your Lord and your savior, then realize you have a need and an emptiness that can only be satisfied in the worship of the majesty of the one true God. If you're here today as a committed follower of Jesus, then rest in that same truth this morning. God's majesty demands our worship. Let's pray.

Benediction: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen. (2 Cor. 13:14)