

Nahum Discussion Qs

1. The book of Nahum ends with a rhetorical question grounding the judgment of Nineveh. How does this negative ending serve a positive message to God's people? The final question is "who has not felt your endless cruelty?" (3.19). This is a loaded question stating that Assyrian cruelty has spread itself around in seemingly limitless fashion. However, the Lord knows and will pursue this enemy and all His and our enemies into darkness (1.8; He will by no means clear the guilty, 1.3, but will take vengeance, 1.2).

2. What is the theme of Nahum? The theme is the good news to Judah that Nineveh will be pursued into darkness because the Lord cares for those who trust in him, and He will restore the splendor of Jacob (1:8, 15; 2:2). Restoration of the ruined vines looks to resettlement and peace in the land which unfolds in the prophetic literature into the restoration of Eden because Israel's enemies are God's enemies. We are brought again to the accomplishment of God's purposes through history that will end with rest in the land of the final Eden.

3. What is the message of the book for us in the new covenant? From the NT we know that restoration will be accomplished through Jesus as the divine warrior who fights for his people against all opposition that led to the ruin of Eden. This includes Satanic opposition. Satan is like a lion with many prey and many messengers of whom it will be said, "The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard" (2:13; Rev. 19:11-20:3). The strong man is plundered when bound; Jesus is plundering Satan's domain by saving grace (Matt. 12:29, Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house). We are more than conquerors through him (Rom. 8:28-30). Beautiful feet now carry the good news to the ends of the earth (Nahum 1:15; Isa. 52:7; Rom. 10:15).

Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off (Nah 1.15).

And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" (Rom 10.15-16)

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Isa 52.7)

