

NAHUM

God Will Judge

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”
& Consolation To His People

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

THE PROPHET NAHUM

Nahum 1:1 (NKJV)

¹ The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.



“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

THE PROPHET NAHUM

- All we know: His name was “**Nahum the Elkoshite**” (1:1).
- Nahum means “**consolation**” or “**comfort.**” - The message about the destruction of Nineveh would have been a great comfort to Judah.
- “**Elkoshite**” suggests that Nahum’s hometown was Elkosh, but the site of such a city is unknown. (N. Iraq; Capernaum; Judah - 1:15)



Nahum 1:1 (NKJV)

¹ The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

THE BURDEN AGAINST NINEVEH

- **“The burden”** - A heavy weight of doom. Several other Old Testament passages refer to Assyria’s fall (Isa. 10:12–19; 14:24–25; 30:31–33; 31:8–9; Ez. 32:22–23; Zep. 2:13–15; Zec. 10:11).
- Nineveh is first mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 10:11–12.
- Nimrod built several cities in southern Mesopotamia (Gen. 10:8–10) and then “went to Assyria where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen.”



Nahum 1:1 (NKJV)
1 The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

Assyrian Empire

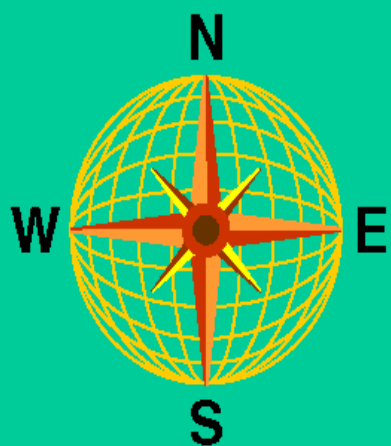
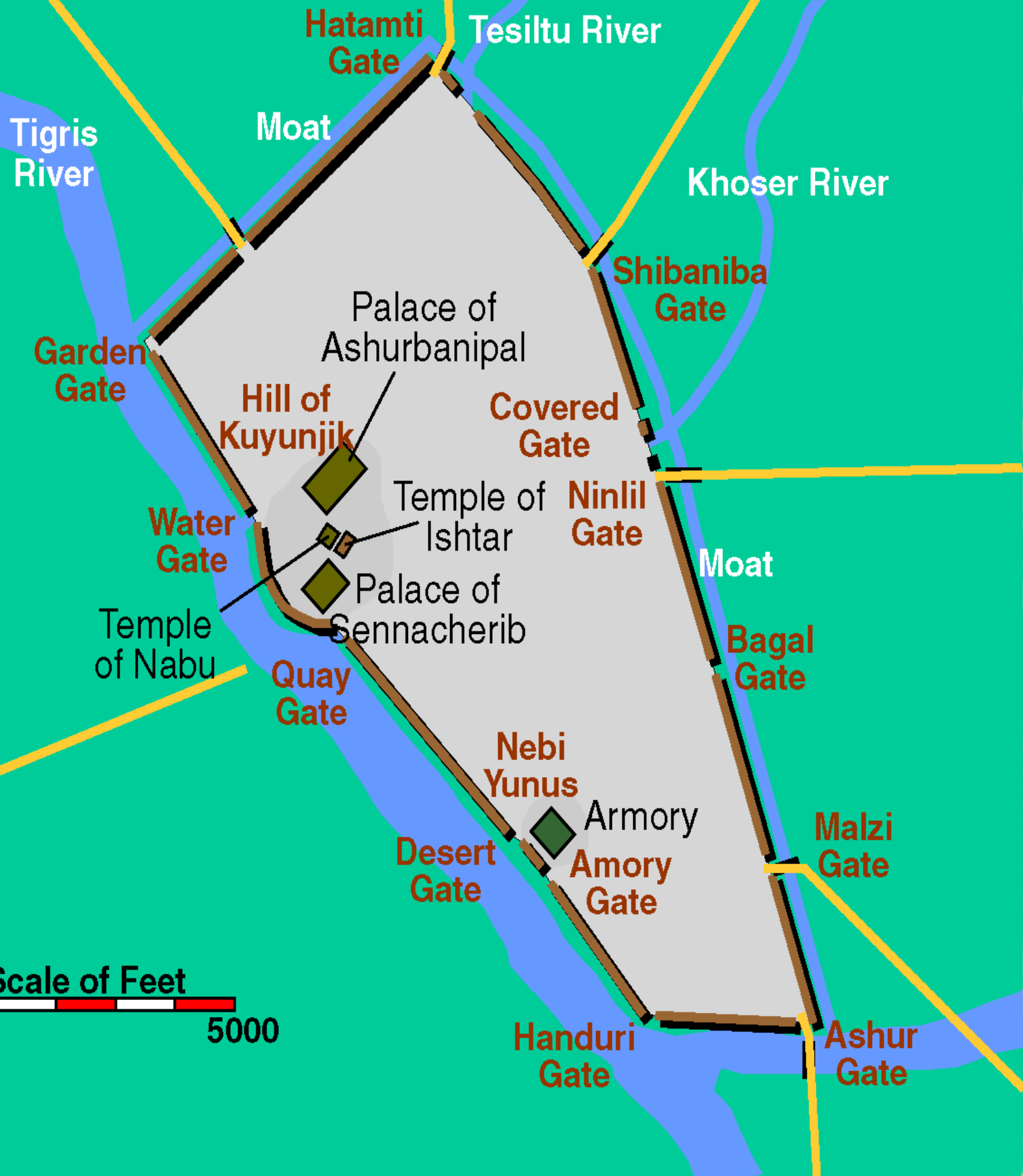
- Early Empire c. 825 B.C.
- Later Empire c. 650 B.C.

Sennacherib defeated at Jerusalem (cf. Is. 37:36–38) - 701 B.C.

Nahum's prophecy (Nahum 3:8–10)

- Nineveh capital of Assyria.
- Empire expanded through the 9th-7th centuries B.C.
- Samaria fell in 722 B.C.
- Thebes of Egypt fell in 663 B.C.
- Height reached in 650 B.C.
- Fell in 612 to Nabopolassar.

Nineveh



“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

THE BURDEN AGAINST NINEVEH

- Jonah preached to Nineveh during the reign of Ashur-dan III (772–754).
- Shalmaneser V (727–722) defeated Samaria - 722 B.C., (2 Kg 17:3–6; 18:9–10)
- Twenty-one years later (in 701), Sennacherib invaded Judah 46 Judean towns.
- After encircling Jerusalem, 185,000 of Sennacherib’s soldiers were killed - (2 Kings 18:17–18; 19:32–36; Isa. 37:36)
- Ashurbanipal captures No Amon (Thebes) in 663 B.C.



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

THE BURDEN AGAINST NINEVEH

- Nineveh was taken by a coalition of former subject peoples, the Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Chaldeans, Scythians and Cimmerians in 612 BC
- The city's ruins are still evident today. The city was easily overtaken when the Khosr River, which flowed through it, overflowed its banks (see Nahum 1:8; 2:6, 8).



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS FROM NAHUM

- The major lessons found in Nahum is in 1:2-8
- These verses teach us about God: His character, His power and faithfulness - cf. Rom 15:4
- The rest of the book makes application to Nineveh which also comforts His people.



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

OUTLINE OF NAHUM

- I. The Title: The prophet & his subject - (1:1)
- II. Nineveh’s doom - by the decree of Jehovah - (1:2-15)
 - A. The goodness & severity of Jehovah (1:2-8)
 - 1. Vengeance & mercy of God - 1:2,3
 - 2. The terribleness of His anger against sin - 1:4-6
 - 3. Greatness of God’s mercy - stronghold of the faithful - 1:7
 - 4. The avenger of His enemies - 1:8
 - B. The complete overthrow of Nineveh - 1:9-15
 - 1. God’s faithfulness in the present crisis - 1:9-11
 - 2. Judah delivered from the yoke of Assyria by destruction of Nineveh’s power - 1:12,13
 - 3. Destruction of Nineveh - 1:14
 - 4. Rejoicing in Zion - 1:15

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

OUTLINE OF NAHUM

III. The siege & destruction of Nineveh - (Chap. 2)

A. The assault & doom of the city - (2:1-7)

1. Furious preparation for battle - (2:1-4)
2. Hopelessness of resistance - (2:5,6)
3. The city, as a queen is captured & moans - (2:7)

B. Fight of the people & sack of the city - (2:8-13)

1. Inhabitants flee - city plundered - (2:8-10)
2. The destruction is complete - (2:11-13)

IV. Nineveh’s sins & her inevitable doom - (chap. 3)

C. Her violence and deceit to result in shame (3:1-7)

D. Her treatment of Thebes to result in her own defeat (3:8-11)

E. Her defense efforts to be useless (3:12-19)

Nahum 1:2–8 (NKJV)

² God *is* jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and *is* furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies; ³ The Lord *is* slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*. The Lord has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds *are* the dust of His feet. ⁴ He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts.

Nahum 1:2–8 (NKJV)

⁵ The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. ⁶ Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him. ⁷ The Lord *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. ⁸ But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ **God is JEALOUS — 1:2-3a; Ex. 20:5; Josh. 24:19; Zec. 1:14; 8:2**

- ▶ As righteous, God is zealous to protect what belongs to Him (Dt. 6:15; 4:24; 5:9; 32:16, 21)
- ▶ God is zealous to protect His people & what is holy (Jn. 2:17)
- ▶ One becomes the object of God’s FURY by despising His people & that which is holy — (2 Thes 1:7-9; Heb 10:26-30)



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ He is also an avenging God

- 1:2; De. 32:35, 42; Ps. 94:1

► This fact is strongly emphasized, for the word *nōqēm* (“avenging”) occurs three times in this verse (twice trans. takes vengeance).

► God said, “It is Mine to avenge” and “I will take vengeance on My adversaries and repay those who hate Me” (Deut. 32:35, 41).



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ He is also an avenging God

- 1:2; De. 32:35, 42; Ps. 94:1

- ▶ God's “vengeance” is not malicious retaliation, but punitive vindication in a judicial sense. (1:2,3)
- ▶ The coming judgment on Nineveh was their just due in return for her terrible atrocities on various nations including Israel in 722 b.c.



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ He is also an avenging God

- 1:2; De. 32:35, 42; Ps. 94:1

▶ God avenges His people in that He vindicates their cause (Romans 12:14-21; 1 Thess. 4:6).

▶ Judah’s enemies were God’s enemies (Deut 32:43; Ps 94:20–23; Is. 49:26. Zec. 2:8).

▶ How much more the enemies of His Son Jesus and those redeemed by Him? (Mt 23:31-39; 2 Ths. 1:7-9; Rv. 6:10; 16:5,6).



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ **God is slow to anger - 1:3a;
Ps. 103:8; Joel 2:13; Jon. 4:2**

▶ Although God is slow to anger, and desires men repent, (as in the book of Jonah, around a century earlier), the time of His patience has limits (cf. Rom. 2:5-11; 2 Pet 3:9-14)

▶ God will indeed PUNISH the wicked - God “will not at all acquit *the wicked*.” (1:3a; Nu. 14:18; Job 10:14; Lk 13:3,5)



Nahum 1:2 (NKJV)

² God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies;

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ **The POWER of God - 1:3-6;
Ps. 66:3; 147:5; Ep. 1:19, 20.**

- ▶ He controls all aspects of nature (1:1-5; Job 38:1. Ps. 18:7–15; 50:3; 97:2–5; 104:3)
- ▶ He is the Creator and outside the laws of nature (Gen 1:1ff; Ps 18:15; etc.)
- ▶ Who, therefore, can stand against God?



Nahum 1:3a (NKJV)

³ The Lord *is* slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ The POWER of God - 1:3-6; Ps. 66:3; 147:5; Ep. 1:19, 20.

- ▶ Rhetorical questions “Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? 1:6
- ▶ Similar to Sennacherib’s field commander (2 Kings 18:17) asked Hezekiah “Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?” (2 Kings 18:35)



Nahum 1:3a (NKJV)

³ The Lord *is* slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ The POWER of God - 1:3-6; Ps. 66:3; 147:5; Ep. 1:19, 20.

- ▶ All those who persist in rebellion against God and boast, thinking they have nothing to fear from God, will one day learn how wrong they are! (Je. 10:10; Mal. 3:2; Re. 6:17; Ac 5:38,39; Ro 9:17)
- ▶ The MANY examples of God’s judgment testify to both His willingness and ability to hold men accountable for their sins (Rom. 2:5-10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Pet. 3)



Nahum 1:3a (NKJV)

³ The Lord *is* slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

■ **God is good and reliable - 1:7; Ps. 25:8; 100:5; 136:1; 145:6–10; Ro. 11:22. 1 Jno. 4:8–10.**

- ▶ He is faithful and merciful, protecting (**a refuge in times of trouble**), helpful, and caring for those who trust Him. (Ps. 27:13, 14; 55:22; 56:3,4; Heb. 13:5,6)
- ▶ God can and will provide for His people, His people are only those who trust and obey - and the Lord knows who we are (Ps. 1:6; Jn 10:27; 2 Ti. 2:19)



Nahum 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The Lord *is* good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

LESSONS: THE NATURE OF GOD

1 Peter 5:5–11 (NKJV)

⁵ ... be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. ⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. ¹⁰ But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*. ¹¹ To Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

ARE YOU GOD’S FRIEND OR ENEMY?

FRIEND

Nahum 1:7 (NKJV)

⁷ The Lord *is* good, A stronghold
in the day of trouble; And He
knows those who trust in Him. ...

¹⁵ Behold, on the mountains The
feet of him who brings good
tidings, Who proclaims peace! O
Judah, keep your appointed feasts,
Perform your vows. For the
wicked one shall no more pass
through you; He is utterly cut off.

ENEMY

Nahum 1:9–10; 3:19 (NKJV)

⁹ What do you conspire against the
Lord? He will make an utter end *of*
it. Affliction will not rise up a
second time. ¹⁰ For while tangled
like thorns, And while drunken *like*
drunkards, They shall be devoured
like stubble fully dried.

3:19 ¹⁹ Your injury *has* no healing,
Your wound is severe. All who
hear news of you Will clap *their*
hands over you, ...

NAHUM

God Will Judge

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

& Consolation To His People

FRIENDS OF GOD ARE

- Like Abraham - Ja 2:23
- Spiritual minded - Rom 8:1-17
- Keepers of Jesus’ commands - John 15:14; Acts 2:38-42
- Faithful in Christ and given everlasting life - Mt 25:31,46

ENEMIES OF GOD ARE

- Friends of the world - Ja 4:4
- Carnally minded - Rom 8:7,12;
- Those who reject Jesus’ authority - Luke 19:27
- Going to suffer everlasting punishment - Mt 25:41,46

ARE YOU GOD’S FRIEND OR ENEMY?

NAHUM

God Will Judge

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

& Consolation To His People

God will give the wicked what is due them.

He will avenge the righteous

He will not acquit the impenitent

God will preserve and reward the righteous!

ARE YOU GOD’S FRIEND OR ENEMY?

NAHUM

God Will Judge

“A WARNING TO GOD’S ENEMIES”

& Consolation To His People

Charts by Don McClain

Preached October 27, 2019

West 65th Street church of Christ, P.O. Box 190062, Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

More Keynote, PPT & Audio Sermons:

<https://www.w65stchurchofchrist.com>

ARE YOU GOD’S FRIEND OR ENEMY?