

**Series: Bible Survey**

**Lesson: 48. Nahum & Habakkuk**

- **Introduction to Nahum**
  - Author: Nahum ('_____')
  - Date: Between 663–612 BC, but probably before 654
  - Context:
    - God used Jonah's message to bring Ninevah's repentance, but within a couple generations, they were back to their wicked and violent ways until their defeat by the Babylonians ~150 years after Jonah. Nahum's prophecy is ~100 years into this span.
    - Their destruction was so complete (as Nahum prophesies) that some believed the city was only a myth until its site was finally rediscovered in 1842.
  - Main theme: God is the righteous _____ Who knows and cares.
    - YHWH is sovereign over all _____, not just Israel.
    - We shouldn't be surprised when God brings the downfall of big, powerful, and cruel nations.
    - This is supposed to 'comfort' God's people (just like Revelation).

- **Introduction to Habakkuk**
  - Author: Habakkuk; he may have been trained as a priestly musician

  - Date: Most likely right before the end of the 7th century BC (during Jehoiakim's reign)

  - Context:
    - Habakkuk was contemporary with Zephaniah, Jeremiah, and possibly other prophets.
    - Judah was enjoying a brief peace when Assyria had lost power over them because new power Babylon was taking over.
    - Josiah had probably just died; all the moral and religious reforms he led quickly died with him.

  - Main theme: Assurance is not found in our circumstances, but in our _____.
    - Habakkuk is wrestling with three main questions about _____:
      1. Why does wickedness go unpunished for so long?
      2. Why is wickedness often punished by more wickedness?
      3. What is the proper response when God's ways don't make sense to us?

- God's answer is reassurance that those who are wicked will be judged, and those who are righteous will live because they are _____.
- We can't worry about whether circumstances on *this* side of eternity work out the way we think they should; instead, we're supposed to worry about whether we're right with God and trust that what awaits His people on the other side is worth dealing with suffering in the here and now.

- **The Flow of Habakkuk**
  - Chapter 1
    - Habakkuk wonders why God is allowing evil to persist in Judah.
    - God's answer is that He will use an even more evil nation to punish them, which perplexes Habakkuk further.
  - Chapter 2
    - God responds again by reassuring Habakkuk that *ultimately*, the wicked will be punished, but the righteous will live because they are faithful (cf. Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).
    - The rest of the chapter contains five 'woes' upon Babylon to reassure Habakkuk that they too will be punished for their evil even if God used it for His purposes.

- Chapter 3
  - Habakkuk writes a song of praise that He knows God will come down in wrath to judge wickedness and save those who are His own.
  - He ends the song with the heavy realization that even though he will endure horrors in his lifetime, he will rejoice in knowing God.

**Discussion:**

1. What 'comfort' can we take from God as Judge when we look at the world around us today?

2. How does it change our attitude to know that faithfulness doesn't guarantee easy circumstances?

FOR REFLECTION: Where in your life is God trying to give you strength instead of escape?

**Blanks:** comfort, Judge, Creation, standing, theodicy, faithful