

A Jealous God; Nahum 1:1-3

I. God is Jealous

- A. Nahum 1:1–2; 1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh. 2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.
- B. Our understanding of Jealousy
 1. Feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages
 2. Genesis 37:10–11; 10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” 11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.
 3. Psalm 106:16–18; 16 When men in the camp were jealous of Moses and Aaron, the holy one of the Lord, 17 the earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. 18 Fire also broke out in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.
 4. Do we really think that God is envious of our achievements or advantages... or even us?
 5. God is the one who enabled us to achieve the things we have!
- C. “Jealous” - Fiercely protective and unaccepting of disloyalty
 1. Joshua 24:19–20; 19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.”
 2. Exodus 34:11–14; 11 “Observe what I command you this day. Behold, I will drive out before you the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 12 Take care, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you go, lest it become a snare in your midst. 13 You shall tear down their altars and break their pillars and cut down their Asherim 14 (for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),
- D. “Whose name is Jealous”
 1. This is part of God’s character
 2. We witness this fiercely protective character in the way he takes care of Israel through the famine, the exodus, the conquering of the land, and the rest of the OT
 3. We witness the unaccepting of disloyalty as well
 4. Israel continued in their idolatry until they were carried off into captivity by the word of God
 5. Micah 1:1–7; 1 The word of the Lord that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem. 2 Hear, you peoples, all of you; pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it, and let the Lord God be a witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple. 3 For behold, the Lord is coming out of his place, and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth. 4 And the mountains will melt under him, and the valleys will split open, like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place. 5 All this is for the transgression of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the transgression of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? And what is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem? 6 Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards, and I will pour down her stones into the valley and uncover

her foundations. 7 All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces, all her wages shall be burned with fire, and all her idols I will lay waste, for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them, and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.

II. God Will Punish Sin

- A. Nahum 1:3; The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
- B. I think this is something we really don't want to think about
- C. A lot of people will tell you that God will save everyone because he is merciful and loving and doesn't want anyone to be lost
 - 1. 2 Peter 3:8–9; 8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
 - 2. 2 Timothy 2:24–26; 24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.
- D. God has made us the captains of our ships, He has given us control over our own lives, to make decisions about what we will or will not do or believe
 - 1. And when we walk outside of God's desires for us he wants us to "come to our senses"
 - 2. "To curb the controlling influences of unreasonable emotions or desires (and therefore become reasonable)
 - 3. Sobering up from being drunk
- E. But if we fail to come to our senses, then we should fear what awaits us
 - 1. Romans 1:29–32; 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
 - 2. Revelation 21:8; But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

III. We Don't Have to be Guilty

- A. 1 Corinthians 6:11; And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- B. Washed
 - 1. Our sins were washed away
 - 2. To be or become forgiven, conceived of as having your sins washed away
 - 3. Acts 22:16; And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

4. Romans 6:6–7; 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

C. Sanctified

1. To make holy, dedicated to God
2. Hebrews 10:10; And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

D. Justified

1. To become judicially vindicated as having complied with the requirements of the law (of God)
2. To make right with God (righteous)
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21; For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

E. Our washing, our sanctification, our justification come through the perfect Law of Liberty

- F. Romans 8:1–4; 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

G. Only in Christ are we perfected, made complete, able to stand before God guiltless

IV. A Jealous God

- A. Fiercely protective and unaccepting of disloyalty
- B. A just God who will punish sin
- C. A merciful God who has given us the perfect sacrifice in His Son, Jesus