

Safety & Care in HIS Arms

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INTRODUCTION

- The message of Nahum is our subject today.
- Nahum is another prophet we know little about.
- His message is very narrow and focused and its not all that pretty.
- We know that at the time of his writing Assyria is the dominant power.
- Assyria has a firm grasp of the Northern Kingdom (10/12 tribes)
- Assyria has brutally attacked various cities in the Southern Kingdom
- Their attacks have been brutal.
- Nahum not first to prophecy to Assyrians. (Jonah)
- When Jonah wrote the people of Ninevah repented.
- We looked at Jonah's account two weeks ago. A whole city repented.
- Now Nahum is writing 150 years later....Ninevah returned to tyranny.
- Nahum prophesy complete destruction of Ninevah.
 - They would be cut off from their allies v. 12
 - Their idols and gods would be destroyed v. 14
 - They will have no more descendants v. 14
- Though the message is primarily to Ninevah, packed in the middle is a promise for God's people.
- This message would have provided great hope for them.
- While we do not face the kind of tyranny God's people did then, this promise is just as true for us today as it was then.

Let's look at Nahum 1:7

The Lord is Good

- We call a lot of things good today: food, games, people, etc...
- But in describing God as "good" we assume something much more
- Maybe we should add a word, "The Lord is *always* good."
- God's goodness is there when times for us are good and bad.
- He does not change, even if the world crashes around us.
- I found a helpful illustration on this.

One of God's faithful missionaries, Allen Gardiner, experienced many physical difficulties and hardships throughout his service to the Savior. Despite his troubles, he said, "While God gives me strength, failure will not daunt me." In 1851, at the age of 57, he died of disease and starvation while serving on Picton Island at the southern tip of South America. When his body was found, his diary lay nearby. It bore the record of hunger, thirst, wounds, and loneliness. The last entry in his little book showed the struggle

of his shaking hand as he tried to write legibly. It read, "I am overwhelmed with a sense of the goodness of God."

- This missionary knew God's goodness was beyond our temp struggles.

A Refuge In Times of Trouble

- For obvious reasons this phrase had huge meaning to Judah.
- However it is also a promise for us today: source of hope in trials
- Many analogies: mother's arms, bird in a nest, pouch of Kangaroo
- The picture is one of a shelter.
- See Psalm 61:3-4
- In times of trouble we can rest in God's presence
- Doesn't mean, necessarily, that problems will go away
- But strength will be gained and hope renewed

He Cares for Those that Trust in Him

- If you put your trust in God you will not be disappointed with His care
- George Muller's example:
 - Muller best known for being a man of prayer
 - Built orphanage for 2000 children in England
 - Never let anyone know if his need except for God
 - The kids of the orphanage and Muller never went without
 - His motto, "It matters to Him about you."
- Muller relied on the promise of 1 Peter 5:7
- Jesus reminded us, as did James, that we have not because we ask not or because we ask with impure motives.
- God cares deeply about His children
- We can count on Him to meet our needs if we put our trust in Him

Conclusion

- Close with a story

It was Christmas Eve 1875 and Ira Sankey was traveling on a Delaware River steamboat when he was recognized by some of the passengers. His picture had been in the newspaper because he was the song leader for the famous evangelist D.L. Moody. They asked him to sing one of his own hymns, but Sankey demurred, saying that he preferred to sing William B. Bradbury's hymn, "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us." As he sang, one of the stanzas began, "We are Thine; do Thou befriend us. Be the Guardian of our way."

When he finished, a man stepped from the shadows and asked, "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?"

"Yes," Mr. Sankey answered, "in the spring of 1860."

"Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright, moonlit night in 1862?"

"Yes," Mr. Sankey answered, very much surprised.

"So did I, but I was serving in the Confederate army. When I saw you standing at your post, I thought to myself, 'That fellow will never get away alive.' I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow, completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing...'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself, 'I can shot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.' But the song you sang then was the song you sang just now. I heard the words perfectly: 'We are Thine; do Thou befriend us. Be the Guardian of our way.' Those words stirred up many memories. I began to think of my childhood and my God-fearing mother. She had many times sung that song to me. When you had finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim again. I thought, 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty.' And my arm of its own accord dropped limp at my side."