

TAKEAWAY

SNAP SHOTS

Small books, big ideas

NAHUM

Sunday 11th August 2019

INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, at Breakfast Church and The Six we baptised some great people. At 1030, we looked at the Old Testament book of Nahum. Nahum is a strong prophetic message to the Assyrians. The Assyrian was huge and powerful and looked unstoppable. Yet Nahum tells them this will not last forever

READ

Nahum

CONTEXT

Nahum begins with a psalm, which describes God's justice and power, and announces God's purpose to judge Assyria in keeping with his character. Then, Nahum alternately speaks words of doom to Nineveh and of comfort to Judah. Next, there is a vivid description of how God will judge Nineveh. In the face of invasion, the defence of the Assyrian capital proves futile and the city is plundered. Evoking powerful

imagery, Nahum asks the empire whose national symbol is the lion, "Where now is the lions' den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear?" Another image explains the reasons for God's judgment: Nineveh is a "prostitute," a "mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution." Finally, Nahum warns the people of Nineveh not to feel secure behind their city's defences, but rather to remember how their own army had once captured the seemingly impregnable Egyptian city of Thebes.

DISCUSS

1. When you were growing up, how did you imagine God? Loving? Forgiving? Judging? How has your view of Him changed over time?
2. Does Nahum seem to align with or contradict how you tend to view God?
3. What fears or concerns do you have around God's judgement? Do you think He should judge humanity? Why or why not?
4. The text makes a strong distinction between those who trust God and those who don't (represented in Assyria vs Judah (Israel)). Does



this seem fair?

5. What do you a) feel and b) think about the idea that God's judgement means that many will face separation from Him?

6. On Sunday, we spoke about how God's judgment leads us to spend eternity either with Him or away from Him (we shorthand this to 'heaven and hell'). We said that Hell is less about a place and

more about a trajectory - it is our self-centredness and desire to be away from God stretched out for ever. If God loves people, which does He allow anyone to be away from Him forever?

7. Matt said that Christians can have supreme confidence on the day of judgement. Why so? Why is this confidence well placed?

8. 'Our sin is great enough that we needed Jesus to die for us - but His love for us is so great that he wanted to' - how does the hindsight of knowing about Jesus' death and resurrection modify how we see Nahum and other texts like it? How does it modify how we engage with God's judgement?

PRAY

