

A message for this third day—

Some of the scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus for a ‘sign’ to prove Himself. He said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something better than Jonah is here.”

After reading the book of Nahum, an oracle of the Lord, whose name means “consolation”, I was later led to read it again. The intended revelation began. Then, I was led to the book of Matthew where Jesus answered those asking for a sign.

The book of Nahum has three chapters with three main points to consider. (1)God’s majesty in mercy and judgment, (2)The siege and destruction of Nineveh, (3)The reason for Nineveh’s doom.

A summary of Nahum’s message to the people of Nineveh: “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him. But with an overflowing flood, He will make a complete end of its site, and will pursue His enemies into darkness.”

The Lord has issued a command concerning you: “Your name will no longer be perpetuated. I will cut off idol and image from the house of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are contemptible.” Notice this is a command, not a warning.

“The one who scatters has come up against you. Man the fortress, watch the road; strengthen your back, summon all your strength.”

“The Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, even though devastators have devastated them and destroyed their vine branches.”

“Though Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days, now they are fleeing; ‘stop, stop,’ but no one turns back.”

“Behold I am against you,” declares the Lord of host. “I will burn up her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions, I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard. Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and robbery.”

“Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; your nobles are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them. There is no relief for your breakdown, your wound is incurable. All who hear about you will clap their hands over you. For on whom has not your evil passed continually?”

“Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! I hope you will read the book of Nahum and receive this revelation and more from this sobering Word of God. I see and hear this as a prophecy given to not only the world, but even more so religious organizations throughout “... something better than Jonah is here.”

Helen Bowden

