

**Nahum 3:8-19**  
**The Taunting of Nineveh Ends**  
**October 21, 2007**

**I. Sanctified Sarcasm (continued)**

**A. Seven taunts → completeness of destruction**

**B. What is sanctified sarcasm?**

1. inspired sarcasm – Holy Spirit
2. God taunts the city of man
3. taunt God's enemies (carefully) – sin, death, Satan

**II. Thebes Taunt (3:8-10)**

**A. The Destruction of Thebes (664 B.C.)**

**B. Are you any better?**

1. the strength of Thebes
  - a. seemingly impenetrable – protected by waters
  - b. allies and fortresses
2. the defeat of Thebes (v. 10)
3. even Assyria's triumph confirms her fate  
Calvin: "for the Prophet shows here, as in a mirror, that the chief empires fall according to the will of God, and that cities, the richest and the best fortified, come to nothing, whenever it pleases God."

**III. Worthless Defenses Taunt (3:11-15c)**

**A. The cup of God's wrath (v. 11) – defenseless as a drunkard**

1. Calvin: "Well known is this metaphor, which often occurs in Scripture: for the Prophets are wont frequently to call punishment a cup, which God administers. But when God executes a heavy punishment, he is said to inebriate the wicked with his cup."
2. seeking refuge – in Nineveh (625-612), Harran (612-610), and Carchemish (610-605)

**B. Worthless defenses**

1. fortresses ripe for the picking (v. 12)
2. no resistance (v. 13)
  - a. soldiers like women (see Isa. 19:16; Jer. 50:37; 51:30)
  - b. the gates of the land wide open
3. sarcastic call to battle (v. 14)
4. there – in your fortresses – you will totally and finally fall  
sarcastic irony → you will die in the buildings of your own defense

**IV. Locust Taunt (3:15d-17)**

**A. More sarcasm**

1. become like the locust that devours you
2. Assyria – the original locust (v. 16; also 2:12; 3:1, 3, 10, 19)
3. as numerous as the locusts, but also as transient (v. 17)

## **B. Ironic reversal in Nahum**

1. plunder the plunderer (2:2, 9)
2. lion without prey (2:11-13)
3. locust flies away
4. appearance of strength, but reality of weakness  
Robertson: "Nothing could withstand the inevitable march of time as one great and ambitious nation replaced another."

## **V. Sarcastic Dirge (3:18-19)**

### **A. Dead man walking**

1. final satire – funeral song
2. image – sleeping shepherds (v. 18)
3. contrast with Isa. 5:26-27  
*Isaiah 5:26-27* <sup>26</sup> *He will raise a signal for nations afar off, and whistle for them from the ends of the earth; and behold, quickly, speedily they come!* <sup>27</sup> *None is weary, none stumbles, none slumbers or sleeps, not a waistband is loose, not a sandal strap broken;*
4. mortally wounded – no redemption (v. 19a)

### **B. No mourners (v. 19b; see v. 7)**

1. not only no mourners – the nations rejoice
2. why? unceasing, endless evil
3. contrast with the rhetorical question that ends Jonah  
*Jonah 4:10-11* <sup>10</sup> *And the LORD said, "You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup> And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?"*

## **VI. Application**

### **A. Call to gospel obedience**

1. obedient submission to the call to repentance  
*Nahum 1:3* <sup>3</sup> *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.*
2. obedient submission to the call to obedience

### **B. God's wrath and human suffering**

*Nahum 1:12* <sup>12</sup> *Thus says the LORD, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.*

### **C. Confidence in Jesus, your Deliverer**

1. Jesus defeated sin, death, and Satan (Col. 2:13-15)
2. Jesus mocks sin, death, and Satan  
*1 Corinthians 15:54-56* <sup>54</sup> *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup> "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.*

Robertson: "Four hundred miles down from the Nile Delta an invading army from the north had to march. To the right and to the left they had to expose their flank to retaliatory assault from kindred nations friendly to Thebes. Having finally arrived before the massive city, twenty-seven miles in circumference, the heated glare of a horizontal wall of water blinded them everywhere they looked. Surrounded by rivers, streams, canals, and lakes formed by the Nile as it distributed over the broadened delta, any invader would have to be overwhelmed by the sight that greeted their eyes. A field of massive statues, memorials, temples, and great halls with no equal in the world stood before them. On both sides of the Nile they observed structures made of stones almost 300 tons in weight, and colossi weighing up to 900 tons apiece. If they had been fully informed, they would have known of the tunneled 'valley of the kings and queens' beyond the many carvings in the western cliffs." 113