



**Southwell
Minster**

*The Cathedral and Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



**GROWING
DISCIPLES**
Wider Younger Deeper

Nahum

James Halstead • May 2020

Welcome, Introduction

1:1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

🌿 Who?

Nahum – “Comfort”

🌿 What?

Oracle, Vision... of judgment

🌿 Where?

Concerning Nineveh – capital of Assyria

North in Exile

Comfort for South?

🌿 When?

AFTER northern exile: 722-586BC

🌿 Why? ...

Jonah

🌿 Nineveh

🌿 Power over nature

🌿 Closing question:

Jonah – mercy (of God 4:11)

Nahum – violence (of God’s enemies, 3:19)

🌿 Exodus 34:6-7

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty.”

Jonah 4:
Nahum 1:3

Q: One reflection on this context of Nahum?

Q: One question as we get stuck in?

Pictures of God

Nahum 1:2-8

Acrostic: first letter – I AM

Telestic: last letter - YHWH

1:2 - “Jealous”, avenging, wrath, rage

1:3 – Ex 34:6-7

“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for the thousandth generation, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, yet by no means clearing the guilty.”

Jonah 4:2 – “slow to anger and abounding in love”

...but also “by no means clearing the guilty”?

Ex 34:6-7 – a warning to his people (=repent!)

Jonah + Exodus = Nahum

Nahum 1:3 – an **explanation** in the current situation:

“slow to anger, yet will not clear the guilty” – comfort as they face Assyria

“Jealousy”: the Gospel of God’s Rage

Q: What does this 'Gospel of God's Rage' say about the evil remaining in our own lives?

Q: How does this picture of God line up with the image you have of Jesus?

Q: How might thinking of God like this give you *confidence* as a Christian?

Pictures of God's Enemies

Judgement

🌿 2:1-7

🌿 3:1-3

Q: pick one 'image' and ask

🌿 What is it?

🌿 What happens to it?

🌿 What does that mean?

2:8

2:13a

2:13b

3:4-6

2:8 - Water

2:13a – Chariots

2:13b – Lions

3:4-6 - Prostitute

Q: The Gospel of God's Rage: why is it Good News that God will utterly destroy all that stands against him?

Q: How is it helpful to think – and speak – about God's Judgement?

A Picture for God's People

Judgement

God's Jealousy – The "Gospel" of God's Rage

(1:9 – with just one blow...)

Appearances can be deceptive

Evil will not endure

God's victory is certain

The death of evil is God's business: a fierce goodness... and in the meantime: **Comfort**