

NAHUM: DOOM OF NINEVEH
FALL OF NINEVEH

Wednesday, July 29

Reading: Nahum 2:3-12

Nahum 2:10 *She is pillaged, plundered, stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale.*

My dad used to watch old war movies – Tora! Tora! Tora!, The Longest Day, et. al. Most of them showed the "glory" of war and not the "gory" of war. They focused on heroism and patriotism instead of the grisly gore of battle. In his prophetic description, Nahum pulls no punches. Nineveh had thought itself impregnable. But in chapter 2, Nahum will describe the sacking of Nineveh and the failure of all they trusted in!

MILITARY MIGHT (2:3-8): The Assyrian army was the most feared in the world and their capital city was heavily fortified. Yet Nahum describes the soldiers of Babylon and Media running through the streets, their shields red with the blood of their victims. The chariots (ancient day "tanks") storming through the streets destroying anything in their path. In contrast, the Assyrian soldiers are described as stumbling about in terror as they race to the wall in an attempt to escape. The slaves and people flee the destruction like water "draining away."

TAKEN TREASURE (2:9-10): From their many victories, the Assyrians had accumulated great wealth – stolen from the nations they had conquered. The loot of their conquests had been gathered at the kingdom's capital. But now this "endless supply" would be pillaged, plundered, and stripped!

PERVERSE PRIDE (2:10-12): The Assyrians used lions in much of their royal art and statues. Their kings often described their actions in terms of lions as well. But Nahum asks: Where is the lion's den now? Like the savagery of a lion, Assyria had hunted and destroyed its prey. But where was that pride and arrogance NOW! "Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale" (2:10).

The people of Nineveh were no different than many people today. They trust in their military strength, their wealth, and pride in their own resources or abilities to save and protect them. But when these things are used in opposition to God they will all fail. What are you trusting in?

GODLY MIGHT

2 Peter 1:3-4 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

GODLY TREASURE

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

GODLY PRIDE

Jeremiah :23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know Me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.