

August 10, 2014 Sermon Application Handout
A Beautiful Book
Nahum 2-3

I. Introduction

1. Before you begin, go to the Lord in prayer. Thank Him for His Inspired Word. Thank Him for not simply presenting his children with commands and prepositions but also for including other beautiful ways to express His Word in poetry, proverbs, letters, and parables.

II. The Poetry of N_____ (Chapter 1-3)

2. Read Nahum 1:1-2. How does Nahum evoke emotion in this verse? What does he say to help you feel the impact of his message? What is he drawing your attention to?
3. What kind of imagery does Nahum use in verse 3-4 to express God's power? How does Nahum present it? What kind of picture does it conjure up in your mind?
4. What imagery does he continue to use in verse 5? What does this imagery set the reader up for in verse 6? What does this type of poetic device emphasize?
5. How does Nahum describe judgment in dramatic fashion 2:1-3? What does he say to make it seem like he's part of the scene?

6. There is power in poetic imagery. What does Nahum interject in verses 8-10 to communicate how the battle is going?

7. Finally in chapter 3; how does Nahum employ vivid imagery? What is being emphasized in verse 3? What is the irony in verses 5-6?

8. How do verses 11-12 heighten the impact of what's taking place through metaphor to Nineveh? What would they be like? What kind of picture does this form in your mind?

III. A Beautiful B_____ (Chapter 1-3)

9. Read Colossians 1:16. In this one verse, Paul is using a poetic device called "chiasm." Something that we often see in Old Testament poetry. How does Paul begin and end this verse? What is he trying to emphasize poetically? How does the structure of the verse heighten the magnitude of that truth? How has this grown you in appreciation when it comes to poetry in the Bible?

10. Read Psalm 19. Note down instances of imagery. What is most impactful to you personally? How does this add depth and meaning to your own walk with the Lord?

11. Read Proverbs 27. Write down all of the poetic imagery and figurative language. How does this Proverb express important truisms in life? How does it add understanding to the truth it expresses?

12. Read Psalm 23. How is God depicted? What does the Psalmist express that would motivate you to adore God?

13. As stated before, Nahum did not write his prophecy for Assyria though it was about Assyria. He wrote it to the people of Judah. Read Nahum 1:15. How does this poetic vivid message of God's judgment upon their oppressors help to motivate Judah to believe and to hope?

14. Now that you've learned a little about the power of poetry and the impact of figurative language. How does this excite, enrich, and help you to open more widely the eyes of faith? In what way does it help you to broaden your understanding of God? In what way does it evoke in you praise and adoration for Him (see Ephesians 1 to help you develop your answers)?

Resources:

Specific Resources for Nahum:

Nahum by Walter Maier

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God by Jonathan Edwards

Hell on Trial by Robert Peterson

Erasing Hell by Francis Chan

General Resources for the Minor Prophets:

The Minor Prophets by James Montgomery Boice

The Minor Prophets by Charles Feinberg

The Prophets of Israel by Leon Wood

Major Points from the Minor Prophets by John Blanchard

A Survey of Old Testament Introduction by Gleason Archer

Interpreting the Minor Prophets by Robert Chisholm Jr.

Miscellaneous Resources:

How to Read the Bible as Literature by Leland Ryken

Seeing Beauty and Saying Beautifully: The Power of Poetic Effort in the Word of George Herbert, George Whitefield, and C.S. Lewis by John Piper

How to Read the Bible For All It's Worth by Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart