

Taking It Home

Assyria had become the terrorists of their day. They tortured and brutalized the countries they overran and struck fear in all those around them. Today we are seeing a rise in the same type of activity. Groups are trying to terrorize people in order to promote their political or religious agenda. We saw in Nahum how God rose up to judge those actions in Nahum's day. What will be the response in our day? As we hear more and more of offenses and atrocities being carried out to instill fear in us, let them be a reminder to you to pray that God will break the spirit of terrorism. Don't become discouraged by the darkness. Hebrews 10:39 says, "But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed." God's hand works even in the darkest times to bring justice and deliverance. Pray for our leaders, that they will not be like those who "slumber and lie down to rest," but that they will hear God's voice and be swift to answer however he leads.



Life group lesson—Nahum Week of 3/1/15

Quick Review:

What insight, principle or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening or troubling?

My Story:

1. When you were a child, were you ever terrorized by a bully, or did you see others who were bullied? How did you respond?

Digging deeper:

This week we studied the book of Nahum. Like Jonah more than 100 years before, Nahum writes about Assyria and the people of Nineveh. Jonah told the people of Nineveh what would happen if they continued in their sinful ways, and at that time the people repented and averted the judgment of God. But unlike Jonah, Nahum does not write this as a warning or a call to repentance. Since the time of Jonah, the Assyrians had become absolutely brutal in their conquests. They were the terrorists of their day. And they were proud of their atrocities, celebrating them by carving in stone depictions of them beheading people, impaling them on poles, chopping off hands, feet, tongues and popping out eyes. They would skin people alive and then hang the skin on the walls of their homes as a decoration. All this they did to enrich themselves, conquering other nations and brutalizing their people. So Nahum writes to tell the people of Judah not to despair because God had pronounced judgment on the Assyrians, and that soon they would be getting what they deserved. Although they were the leading military power in the world, God would destroy them because of their wickedness.

1. In Nahum 1:1-8, what characteristics of God can be seen? Why do you think Nahum started his book this way?
2. Read Nahum 1:9-13. Why does Nahum contrast the future of Nineveh to the future of Judah? Why does God treat the two nations so differently?
3. In verse 2:1 the prophet warns Nineveh to prepare for battle. Why do you think God would warn them this way?
4. The lion was Assyria's symbol. How is it used to taunt her in Nahum 2:11-13?
5. Read Nahum 3:8-13. In what is Nineveh putting her trust? What is prophesied about each of the things Nineveh trusts in?
6. Read Nahum 3:16-19. Discuss the role of the leaders in the fall of Nineveh.