God is Good and Angry *(Nahum)*
July 14, 2024

Nahum tells the faithful remnant, do not think that you can tread underfoot divine principle and God's holiness with impunity.

God is on the throne; He will ultimately triumph and evil will ultimately perish.

Nahum reminds them that God is a God of both grace and justice.

God will always bring judgement upon evil; but before he does, he gives forewarning. He extends to the sinner the opportunity to repent.

God is Good…and God is Angry.

What Scripture shows us, over and over again, is that the goodness of God, and the awesome wrath and anger of God, are inextricably bound up in each other.

To be jealous means to feel deeply about something. It means to be stirred emotionally and motivated into action because of that emotional involvement.

Not many choose to read the Minor Prophets. We decide that this nature of God is a relic of the Old Testament that does not really apply today. We much prefer the "New Testament God."

But…the God of the Old Testament shows up in the New Testament too…and the message does not change.

The wrath of which the Old Testament prophets spoke was a temporal wrath. The judgement and vengeance of which Jesus spoke is an eternal one.

It is a matter of retribution not retaliation. Retaliation is merely "me getting even with you for what you did to me." Retribution speaks of a rigorous system of justice that punishes evil.

God is firmly committed to repentance and reformation. But thinking that somehow that in the New Testament God has gone soft on sin would be a big mistake.

God's wrath is aligned to his holiness and righteousness. Nahum is telling the people that God's wrath is evidence of his righteousness, and his anger against evil is evidence of his justice.

Is God a righteous God? If so, then we have no choice but to accept a God of judgement and anger. He must visit his wrath on those who turn from his righteousness.

Evil, in any and every form, will ultimately be dealt with by a holy and righteousness God.

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