



**“That’s not fair!”**

The Book of Nahum = an oracle concerning **Nineveh** (Assyria)

An oracle from God *against* Nineveh = **justice**

*How does the book begin?*

In order to understand justice—and God’s justice—we must first start with God...

But, we naturally do not start with God. Why?

Thus, our feeling, thinking, speaking, and acting regarding justice ends up revolving around ourselves.

The typical problem with justice, then, is not so much that some believe in justice while some do not, but that we are all so prone to approach justice in very different ways.

**No. 2 – The God of Justice**

1:2-15

Before God describes His specific justice against Nineveh, He gives us a bigger picture of Him and His relationship to justice

*What do we need to know about God’s justice?*

1:2-6  
1:7-15

**God’s justice is consistent with who He is** (vv. 2-3a)

“The LORD is...”

The LORD (YHWH, or Yahweh)

ESV **Exodus 3:** <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

is (attribute, or what He is like)

He is jealous (cf. Ex. 20:5; 34:14; Deut. 4:24; 5:9; 6:15; 32:21)

He is avenging (3x in v. 2) on His adversaries

He is wrathful (2x in v. 2; 'master of wrath') on His enemies

He is slow to anger (cf. Num. 14:18; Neh. 9:17; Ps. 86:15; 103:8; 145:8)

Compare...

**Jonah 4:2** "...for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, **slow to anger** and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."

**Exodus 34:6** "The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...'"

He is great in power

He will by no means clear the guilty

### **God's justice is unstoppable** (vv. 3b-6)

His way is...

whirlwind...storm...clouds...

rebukes...dries up...withers...

Bashan, Carmel, Lebanon

quake...melt...heave...

Who can stand before His **indignation**?

Who can endure the heat of His **anger**?

His **wrath** is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken to pieces

### **God's justice is balanced** (vv. 7-8)

He is good

He is a stronghold

He knows those who take refuge in Him

He will make a complete end of the adversaries

He pursues His enemies into darkness

### **God's justice is personal** (vv. 9-13)

Notice...

"you" (vv. 9, 11, 12b, 13)

"they" (vv. 10, 12a)

You, the plotters... (vv. 9-12a)

Trouble will not rise up a second time  
They will be consumed like stubble fully dried  
They will be cut down and pass away

You, the afflicted... (vv. 12b-13)

I will afflict you no more  
I will break this yoke from off you

### **God's justice is applicable** (vv. 14-15)

The LORD has given commandment about you...

No more shall your name be perpetuated

I will cut off the carved and metal images

I will make your grave, for you are vile

A messenger who brings good news to you... (cf. Is. 52:7; Rom. 10:15)

Peace!

Keep your feasts, fulfill your vows

Never again shall the worthless pass through you, he is utterly cut off

*Do you start with God?*

*Do you know who He is and what He can and will do?*

*Do you respond to Him and His justice as you should?*