

HOPE for SHATTERED DREAMS

Dr. Stephen G. Tan | Nahum 1:9-2:2

DISCUSS

For most of us, our greatest hope in life is to have guaranteed success, assured security, and a lasting legacy, and our worst fear is that our hopes and dreams will not come true. The Bible tells us that God has the power to make both our greatest dreams and our worst fears come true. From the account of the destruction of the nation of Assyria, we see how our choice to trust God and turn to Him would influence whether He brings about our greatest hopes or our worst fears. Read Nahum 1:9-2:2

FEAR #1: Our success will come to an end (v. 1:9-11)

- The Assyrians were successful the first time they attacked God's people, but why had they never gotten a second chance at success?
- Why should you not correlate your self-worth with your worldly success?
- What is the danger of thinking that you would always be successful?
- The Bible repeatedly tells us what happened to those who oppose the Lord and continue to sin. Why should this cause you to be fearful? What do you need to do when you find yourself being one of those who sin and oppose God?

FEAR #2: Our security is no longer assured (v. 1:12-13)

- Where did the Assyrians find their safety? Why was their security no longer assured?
- How do you feel after your sense of security is shattered?
- Why would God remove the object upon which you place your security?
- What would make your security assured?

FEAR #3: Our legacy will no longer be perpetuated (v. 1:14)

- That the Assyrian Empire's name and legacy are no longer perpetuated was their worst fear come true. Why is this so?
- Why can't you expect your children and grandchildren to make any efforts to carry on with your legacy, especially if you have not invested into their lives?
- What reasons would God have for not allowing your legacy to last?

HOPE #1: True success will come in God's hands (v. 1:15)

- What good news did the prophet Nahum say to the Israelites whose history has been filled with troubled times? And why would Israel's dream of true success be realized?
- What makes success guaranteed? What was the message of peace in this verse that correlates with Romans 10:15?
- Why does true success come in God's hands? Share an experience when your hopes and dreams came true because God removed barriers and obstacles to guarantee your success.

HOPE #2: Security is absolutely guaranteed in God's hands (v. 2:1)

- How did the Assyrians try to protect themselves when God said that He would scatter them? Were they successful in their attempt to keep their empire? What did God use to overthrow the great Assyrian empire?
- Why is it that in the Christian life, our security in Christ is assured?
- Should fear of physical death keep away your security in the Lord's hands? Why is that so?

HOPE #3: Legacies will always be perpetuated in the Lord's hands (v. 2:2)

- What did God promise He would do to the people of Israel? How is God fulfilling that promise?
- What is God's promise in Matthew 6 to those who store up treasures in heaven?
- How do you live your life now so that you will be recognized for all eternity?

REFLECT

What is your fear if the Lord is not in your life? What should you recognize so that your hopes and dreams will be realized? The choice is yours: Do you want to have your worst fear come true, or do you desire that your hopes and dreams come to fruition? It all boils down to living for Christ and following Him or ignoring Him in your life. Which one are you living out?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You that when I put my life in Your hands, my true success, security, and legacy are guaranteed because You are the source of all these. My hopes and dreams can come true only through You. Thank You, Lord. Please help me to never let go of Your hands. In Jesus' mighty name I pray. Amen.