**Nahum 1:12-15 Thus says the Lord: “Though *they are* safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more; 13For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart.” 14The Lord has given a command concerning you: “Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile.” 15Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.**

We’re back with Nahum this evening in Nineveh. Recall with me last week that we ended with verse 11 that says *From you comes forth one Who plots evil against the Lord, A wicked counselor.* God is talking to the Assyrians at this time. This probably refers to Rabshakeh who was Sennacherib’s wicked counselor. Sennacherib was plotting against the Lord, we saw that in 2 Kings 18 – the Assyrians were defiant and, in verses 29-30, make this claim against God - *Thus says the king: ‘Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he shall not be able to deliver you from his hand; nor let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, “The Lord will surely deliver us; this city shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.*. Isaiah told Hezekiah to pray and God delivered Jerusalem, sending an angel that killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night. Let this be a lesson to us, we need not suggest how we’d fix the issue to God. He needs no counselor. When He is ready to address the issue, He will do so with might and perfection.

 Verse 12 tonight continues God’s address of the Assyrians and the wicked counselor we talked about *Thus says the Lord: “Though they are safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.* Assyria is prosperous at this time, with mighty armies, great influence, and a high population. No one thought this mighty nation would ever fall. Sound familiar to anyone? God did His work while they were mighty. No one could claim that the nation had already fallen. *Thus saith Jehovah, Though they be of unimpaired strength and ever so numerous, yet just in that state shall they be cut down, and he*(referring here to the evil counsellor)*shall pass away. Though I have afflicted thee (*referring to Jerusalem)*, I will afflict thee no more.* God relents and tells of the coming relief for His children. In time, they will forget God’s kindness and Jerusalem will fall, but not to Assyria and not to Sennacherib’s army.

 Verse 13 *For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart.* God is speaking to Jerusalem. Isaiah 14:25 says *That I will break the Assyrian in My land, And on My mountains tread him underfoot. Then his yoke shall be removed from them, And his burden removed from their shoulders.* This is a direct confirmation of what Nahum is prophesying here. Scripture validates scripture. God is about to break the burden that Assyria placed on His children. Think of the hope that is found among true believers when they hear this! God is declaring His displeasure with Sennacherib. In Ester 6:13, we read *When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, “If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him.”* God will not allow His servants to be mistreated. Those who mistreat the men and women of God will not prevail, but will surely fall.

But recall with me that everything doesn’t magically fix itself in the 45 seconds we think God should take - King Manasseh was a very evil king, evil things were happening all around, several years passed, but God’s timing was perfect. If all the believers did was watch the present moment, they’d have doubted the coming salvation. Instead, they trusted the promise of their God, worthy of trust. We must do the same today.

 Verse 14 *The Lord has given a command concerning you: “Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile.”*The end of Sennacherib’s bloodline came when Saracus, his last great-grandson and last king of Nineveh, killed himself in despair as the fall of Nineveh became obvious. Isaiah 37:38 tells us of Sennacherib’s end - *Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.* There among the carved and molded images of his gods, in the very temple where he knelt to praise those that were never alive, Sennacherib is struck down… the temple of his gods becomes his tomb. God pronounced him vile. In 2 Kings 19, Isaiah says this to Hezekiah *‘He shall not come into this city, Nor shoot an arrow there, Nor come before it with shield, Nor build a siege mound against it. 33 By the way that he came, By the same shall he return; And he shall not come into this city,’ Says the Lord. 34 ‘For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’* God sent the His angel, 185,000 Assyrians fell, what was left returned to Nineveh defeated, not by man, but by God.

 Verse 15 starts *Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace!* Jerusalem is surrounded by hills and mountains except on the north side. In ancient times, signal fires were used to signal to the city. The fires could be seen on the mountains. Messengers ran to bring the details. The fire may have signaled victory, but the messenger brought the details. Romans 10:15 says *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”* God convicts the heart, but He expects us to deliver the details of the gospel. We must ask ourselves, “Do we have beautiful feet?”

 The last part of the verse *O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.* Freedom now to keep the appointed feasts. God invites those He will deliver to keep their vows, to be faithful, to turn from sin, or something worse may befall. It brings to mind what Jesus said in John 5:14 after healing the man by the pool of Bethesda, *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, “See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.”* Judah, keep your vows, lest something worse befall you. Nineveh, I relented 150 years ago, but you returned to your sin. Assyria will pass through you no more. Sennacherib is utterly destroyed and cut off.

 As we talked about last week, we talk about again tonight. Evil is all around us, but we must stay focused on bringing the good news. It won’t pass in five minutes or five days, we don’t know how God will use these times… will He bring a great revival or will He bring utter destruction based on what we see around us? We know the end of the story, but we can’t be sure how close to the end we are – only God knows the hour and the day. We need to live like we’ll be here another 20, 30, 50 years spreading the gospel. It is up to us to be the beautiful feet of Jesus, bringing the details of salvation to a world searching the horizon for a fire of hope, not a hangdog Nelly pronouncing all is hopeless and, rest tonight, cause the end is tomorrow.