

Help is Coming

By Pastor Terry Bonner

Connection:

I was driving to work last week. It was storming and kind of depressing. We have been really busy around here with the Pandemic, Elections and other stuff. Life was wearing me down a bit. Can I get a witness. As I got off the highway and was coming down 172nd street I looked at the mountains and to the left. It was heavy gray with dark storm clouds, And I said, “Of course.” **Isn't that how we look at life sometimes.** *“Of course this is happening to me.”*

Then something amazing happened! **I GLANCED RIGHT.** Sometimes when you are stuck you have to at least glance somewhere else to get a better perspective, even if you don't feel like it. When I looked Right I saw the most brilliant light breaking through the clouds. I heard God say, “Breakthrough is Coming.” I thought to myself, “How did I not see that. It is so bright. **We are often blinded to the light (Right thinking, perspective) by the storm that we are going through in life.** Then I looked farther to the right and saw all of the blue sky back towards Marysville where I had come from. How did I drive all the way from Marysville in beautiful blue sky but could not see it. All I could see were the storm clouds in the distance. They were far away but I focused on them and then eventually I drove right to them.

That will preach. **Don't ignore the blessing and beauty of life right in front of you. If all you focus on is the negative and storms of the future then eventually that will be all you have.**

A. Jonah story

- B. Nineveh really bad (Assyrians would hang bodies up on poles and would use their skin on their outside of their tents.
- C. Famous Prophet goes rogue (Jonah Story)
- D. Repentance doesn't stick and Nineveh gets even worse and invades Israel.
 - 1. Life as they knew it was turned upside down.
- E. So God sends Nahum who has seen first hand the atrocities **to declare that Help is Coming!**

F. Nahum is a sequel (One of the most famous Sequels was Toy Story 2). Jonah 1 Nahum 2

- G. He describes in detail the Fall of the Capital in Chapter 2 and the destruction of the Evil empire in Chapter 3
 - H. 100 Years before it actually happened
- The writer is NAHUM (The comforter). This book is all about a Nahum declaring that the enemy would be destroyed and peace was coming.
 - And just like this book we also have invaders who are attacking us whether it's individuals or circumstances or just life itself. Things that are pressing on us. And **we need our own declaration against that invasion.**

Scripture:

Nahum 1:15 MSG, "Look! Striding across the mountains, a messenger bringing the latest good news: peace! A holiday, Judah! Celebrate! Worship and recommit to God! No more worries about *this* enemy. This one is history. Close the books.

Break Down the Scripture:

1. Look UP! (Get a God perspective)

1. Just like my story of the sun breaking through. We have to look up and always be looking for God to show up in every situation.
2. We can't get to the other steps until we start with Step 1 LOOK Up!

2. A messenger is Coming (Help is on the Way)

1. Sometimes we need a messenger to come and bring us peace.
2. Sometimes we are the messenger that is bringing peace to others.
3. Maybe that is a good prayer this week, "God where is the messenger in my life?"

3. Coming over the Mountains: (God's participation in our life)

1. So what happened back in those days is that when you wanted to get a message out to all the cities in all the villages around the country you would have **beacon fires on the tops of the mountain** that was signal that everything was good and the enemy was defeated and we are free again.
2. The comforter Nahum was saying as a prophet to the people look this is what's coming. A beacon fire! An announcement of peace and announcement of wellness is going to come this is our declaration.
3. And what God is teaching us in this story is that we have to focus on God when we are going through tough times and out of that

relationship with God. We make our decisions from his wisdom and we speak to our situation.

4. You might say, “**why is that important to speak over your situation that doesn't make sense.**” Why don't we just get through it and then try to figure it out. Because we don't always get through it and that process always leads to more trauma.
5. We need to **anticipate the drama** or the problems and begin to speak into them and declare over them. Even if it doesn't change our situation it changes how we see our situation and it changes how we react to our situation.
6. The mountain represents the presence of God. That is why the Bible says in Psalms who can climb the mountain or the presence of God, only those with clean hands and a pure heart.

True peace cannot be found without involvement of God.

- That's why it says look to the mountains or look to the presence of God or look to the **strategy and wisdom of God.**
- The Bible says if we need wisdom to ask and God will give it to us in great amounts.
- An announcement of **sudden deliverance**
- They didn't expect it but it was coming anyway
- **Psalm 56:16**, “But I will call on God and the Lord will rescue me.”

- **Isaiah 52:7;** "Same expression that peace is coming from the mountain tops declaring victory. Babylonians defeated"

5. **Message: "Help is on its Way" (PEACE)**

1. Peace! Peace! Peace! Everybody's for it. Nobody is against it. But what is it? It means different things to different people.

1. **Peace** is what the elderly neighbor wants when the teenager across the street is practicing on his drums. She really wants quiet.
2. **Peace** is what the shopkeeper wants when he's worried about paying his bills. He really means that he'd like his store to be busy and bustling with customers. Peace to him means prosperity.
3. The patient waiting anxiously in the doctor's office to be told the results of a battery of lab tests wants peace. He really means good health.

1. The ancient Hebrew concept of peace, rooted in the word "shalom," meant wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, carrying with it the implication of permanence.

2. To the Jewish people PEACE meant total wellness. In every part of your life

3. Not just being saved from the evil empire

Story: It is well with my soul (Matthew Spafford)

- **First year:** Four-year-old son from disease
- **2nd Year:** [Great Chicago Fire](#) of 1871, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the area of Chicago that was extensively damaged by the great fire).

- **3rd Year:** The more of his business collapsed in 1873, so he decided to go with his family to Europe and hear the great preacher D. L. Moody with his family on the *SS Ville du Havre*.
- In a late change of plan, he couldn't go with the family because the city notified him that he had zoning issues with his remaining property. So he sent the family ahead while he was delayed.
- While crossing the *Atlantic Ocean*, the ship collided with another ship and all four of Spafford's daughters died.
- His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...".
- Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.
- **Well doesn't mean never going through tough times. It can mean that in the middle of the storm that God brings us strength and comfort and a sense of wellness.**

6. Celebrate / Holidays (Back to your life)

1. They were occupied and people could no longer go to Jerusalem to celebrate their feasts, which was a very important thing for the Jewish people.
2. There are invaders in your life that are keeping you from doing certain things but God is saying I am coming now suddenly to change everything. And you will now be able to do the things that you desire to do