

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 34

Nahum

Objects to have:

The sign for this Bible book: NAHUM

Nineveh Destroyed

The sign for the book of Jonah

A bowl representing a crystal ball

A picture of a beautiful house

A picture of a wall: a garden wall or a wall around a city, etc.

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Say with the pupils the books of the Bible learned thus far.) In a couple of minutes we're going to say some of them over again. But, for right now, see this bowl. (Hold up the bowl.) I'm going to turn it upside down and call it a crystal ball. There are people who call themselves fortune-tellers, and they say that they can look into a crystal ball and tell what is going to happen in days to come. They are just pretending they can do this! No human person can tell what is going to happen in days to come; only God can do that. Sometimes God tells some of His people what is going to happen in the future, but He doesn't show them that in a crystal ball or by the lines in their hands nor other ways that fortune-tellers use. Fortune-tellers aren't God's people.

Every book in the Bible has something in it about what is going to happen in days to come. There are some books in the Bible, however, that have a lot in them about what is going to happen. These books are called the books of the prophets. See, that is all these books. (Show the books of the prophets.) Let's say the names of some of the books of the prophets. (Repeat these with the children, beginning with Isaiah and going through Nahum, the new book for today. Remind them that the books are all named after the men who wrote down the words that God told them to write. Tell them that we will be learning names of more prophets during coming Sundays.)

(Stress again the fact that only God knows what is going to happen all through every day in all the days of the future. No fortune-teller knows; a fortune-teller plays the Devil's tricks.)

Telling the story:

(Pick up the picture of the beautiful house.) I am going to tell you about a very big, very beautiful city. In that city were some fortune-tellers. In that city there were lots and lots of streets with many, many big, tall buildings. The city covered many, many blocks and miles. There were many, many buildings and many, many houses. It was a big city! It was a beautiful city.

There was something terribly bad, however, about this city. I told you that there were some fortune-tellers in this city. Fortune-tellers don't trust God. In fact, most of the people of this city did not trust God. They did not want to know Him. They were living wicked lives. First, they made up their own gods. They made idols of wood, marble and stone. Second, the people of this rich city hated other people. They particularly hated the Israelites.

The king of this city commanded, "Generals of the army, get the soldiers ready for battle. Go fight against other nations so that you can steal and burn and kill and take captives." The army gladly obeyed the king! They went to battle, marching against the Israelites. They did this not once nor twice, but they did this many times. What wicked, hating, stealing, murdering people! They hated God, so they had no good in them.

God saw what was going on. God talked to one of His prophets. (Point to the Bible—book sign called Jonah.) God told Jonah to tell this city that they were living wickedly, that they needed to be sorry for their sins. We heard the story of Jonah. We know the name of the city where he was supposed to go to preach; it was called Nineveh. The people of that city needed to ask God for forgiveness. God told Jonah to go tell the people of Nineveh that they were doing wrong. But Jonah did not want to go. God convinced Jonah that he should go there.

(Review for a few minutes.) Jonah went to that city. The king, the other men, the ladies, the boys and the girls in that big, rich city were sorry for the sins that they were committing. They asked God for forgiveness.

Many years passed by. Jonah got old; his body died, and the living part of Jonah went to Heaven. The people in the city of Nineveh went back to their wicked ways. They forgot God. God saw them. He knew what happened.

God told another prophet about this city. This second prophet or preacher who was told about Nineveh was named Nahum. God commanded Nahum to preach: “Nineveh, you have built beautiful buildings. You live in beautiful houses. The palace in Nineveh is prettier than anyone can describe; besides that, it is huge. It is pretty, it is built beside a river. Nineveh, you have built walls around your city.” (Hold up the picture of the walls.) “You think that no enemy can ever come and destroy your city.” God told Nahum to tell the people of Nineveh all these things.

Of course, all that God said was true about Nineveh. Nineveh had an army, well-trained men who were in the army. Nineveh had walls around it. It was a strong city; it was rich. People from all over the world came to Nineveh to buy things and to sell things. The people of Nineveh knew that their city was strong and important.

Just a little tiny group of people who lived in Nineveh ever went to church. It was only a few people who were wanting to do as God wanted them to do. God said, “Nahum, I’ll tell you what I am going to do. I am going to destroy Nineveh. I am going to make the river by the castle get deeper and deeper until it overflows its banks. The water will go into the foundation of the palace. The walls will finally crumble and fall. Armies will come into Nineveh from other places. Nineveh will be completely destroyed. All the beautiful big buildings will be knocked down. All the riches that the people have will not do them any good any longer. Nineveh will be destroyed,” God told Nahum.

What about the people living in Nineveh and around Nineveh who really loved God? What about those people who said, “Dear Lord, we are sorry to see our city as wicked as it is. We still trust You”?

God said, “Nahum, tell the people who love Me that I will protect them. I always see My people, and I never stop loving My people. Even though there may be danger all around them, even though some of My people die because of the wickedness of this place, I will be sure to bring them home to Heaven to be with Me. Nahum,” God said, “tell My people that I will take care of them.”

Whatever Nahum told that God said would happen in Nineveh, really did happen. Rains fell and did not stop. The river in Nineveh got deeper. The palace was washed away in the heavy flood water. So were houses. So were the walls around the city. Enemy soldiers came into Nineveh and killed the people of Nineveh. God’s people were doing all right. Times were hard for God’s people, but they were happy because they knew that God loved them. Isn’t that wonderful, children! If you really trust God, you can be sure that God will take care of you. He always knows where you are, and He always loves you!

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Nahum 1:7, “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”