

Lesson 122 In Defense

In defense, I will come in your defense when the enemy tries to take over. I will never leave or desert you. I AM always there. Keep the doors closed. Obedience is a must. Get rid of any rebellious spirit you may have and follow Me. Do not allow the enemy to have a legal claim to you. Take care of business. That is all for now, go in peace.

Introduction

In this lesson the Lord will have us look at the enemy. It will serve as a reminder of his tactics and his ways. The Lord began preparing me for this lesson by having me read from the book of Nahum. Now I believe the book of Nahum is important to this lesson because it is centered around the city of Nineveh. Therefore, in order to understand the message presented through the book of Nahum we must have some basic knowledge of Nineveh, as well as, some basic knowledge of its founder, Nimrod, and what he established. And it is from this point we will begin the lesson.

Nimrod, Babylon and Nineveh

Nimrod:

Nimrod was the son of Cush. His grandfather was Ham and his great grandfather was Noah. In **Genesis 10:8,9** it says:

Kush fathered Nimrod, who was the first powerful ruler on earth. He was a mighty hunter before Adonai, this is why people say, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Adonai." CJB

According to some accounts Nimrod founded both Babel (also known as Babylon) and Nineveh. The inhabitants of both of these cities supposed that all their prosperity came as a result of their own actions. They did not attribute any part of their success to God. In fact, they felt God was not to be trusted because he had flooded the world killing all except for Noah and his family. This is part of why they built the Tower of Babel so that they could be above the flood waters if the Lord ever decided to flood the world again. And interestingly enough, the other reason for the Tower of Babel was so that they could exalt themselves above all others. They reasoned that people would be able to see their greatness from many miles away as the Tower was built on a plain. You can see their mindset through these actions of theirs can't you!

Thus Nimrod rebelled against God. Hence, he encouraged his people to have contempt for God. At first he emboldened them to have more confidence in themselves but slowly he turned it around and convinced them to depend on him for their protection, for their safety instead of God. Therefore he convinced the people that they could not trust God. And evidently as a part of his contempt and rebellion against God, Nimrod slowly changed the type of government the people had at that time into a new form of government. His new government was one of dependence, subjection and tyranny. Remember, he convinced them to turn to him for their protection and safety. And through such maneuvers he became the first king. He was, literally, the first person to ever wear a crown.

Various historical documents report that Nimrod told his people to forget the religion of Shem (Shem was Noah's believing son from whom Jesus descended), forget the religion of Shem and cling to the institutes of Nimrod. It is said that Nimrod was a mighty man of sin, a

murderer and a rebel against God. He took the power that he had acquired and used it violently, seizing and/or destroying whatever he desired. Therefore that which he instituted in no way resembled “the religion of Shem”.

And the last note to be said of Nimrod is that according to researcher, Alexander Hislop, Nimrod married a woman named Semiramis. Semiramis was an exceedingly beautiful woman. She gave birth to a son named Tammuz. Semiramis was pregnant with Tammuz when Nimrod was killed. She claimed that Tammuz was Nimrod reborn. She claimed that while Nimrod lived he was a hero and then upon his death she proclaimed him to be a god. Therefore, it was Semiramis who founded the idolatrous religion of Babylon (the idolatrous worship of mother and child). Semiramis exalted herself. She, like Nimrod, had a thirst for power that she made evident by her actions. So let's look at what they started.

Babylon:

As stated previously Nimrod founded both Babylon (Babel) and Nineveh. Babylon, of course, is known for its wickedness, arrogance, covetousness, addiction to magic, cruelty, and destructive oppressiveness. Here is some of what is written about Babylon in the bible:

Isaiah 14:4 *The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked.*

Isaiah 47:9,10,12 ... *because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments, for you have trusted in your wickedness; Stand now with your enchantments and the multitude of your sorceries, ...Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you.*

Jeremiah 50:29 *Call together the archers against Babylon. All who bend the bow, encamp against it all around; let none of them escape. Repay her according to her work; according to all she has done, do to her; for she has been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel.*

Jeremiah 50:35-38 *“A sword is against the Chaldeans,” says the Lord, “Against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her princes and her wise men. A sword is against the soothsayers, and they will be as fools. A sword is against her mighty men, and they will be dismayed. A sword is against their horses, against their chariots, and against all the mixed peoples who are in her midst; and they will become like women. A sword is against her treasures and they will be robbed. A drought is against her waters, and they will be dried up. For it is the land of carved images, and they are insane with their idols.*

Jeremiah 51:13 ...*the measure of your covetousness.*

Daniel 2:2 *Then the king (of Babylon) gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams.*

Daniel 3:18 *“But if not, let it be known to you. O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.*

After reading the verses above you can see that Babylonians were often referred to as Chaldeans, while the term Chaldeans, in turn refers to the hellenistic type of philosophy of the Babylonians. Hellenism is defined as a culture that believes in multiple gods, magic, oracles, charms and astrology. And that my friends is a perfect description of Babylon isn't it! But we can't forget that it also describes Nineveh as well.

Nineveh:

Jonah 1:1-2 *Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”*

Nineveh was wicked, just as Babylon was wicked. This is because they were both founded by Nimrod. Therefore they both grew in the same philosophy, in the same deceit. And when we speak of Nineveh we must say that God determined that it was a wicked city worthy of destruction, however, in His wisdom and mercy the Lord sent Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh. At which point the people of Nineveh fasted and repented. Nevertheless, their repentance did not last as we discover from the book of Nahum.

Nahum 1:1-3 *This is a prophecy about Ninveh, the book of the vision of Nachum the Elkoshi:*

ADONAI is a jealous and vengeful God. ADONAI avenges; he knows how to be angry. ADONAI takes vengeance on his foes and stores up wrath for his enemies. ADONAI is slow to anger, but great in power; and he does not leave the guilty unpunished...

As you can see the Lord determined that Nineveh was guilty; yet He acknowledged that He:

Nahum 1:7 *ADONAI is good, a stronghold in time of trouble; he takes care of those who take refuge in him.*

However, in spite of His goodness, in spite of His mercy, ultimately the people of Nineveh, still turned away from him. They still rebelled against God. Therefore the Lord sent his prophet (Nahum) to warn them one more time.

Nahum 1:14 *ADONAI gave this order concerning you; "You will have no descendants to bear your name; from the house of your god I will cut off carved image and cast metal image; I will prepare your grave, because you are worthless."*

Thus the Lord had declared that Nineveh was a wicked city. It was an immoral city that was into "self". It was a city that was:

Violent

Nahum 2:4 *The shields of (Nineveh's) warriors are red; the soldiers are wearing scarlet.*

Greedy

Nahum 2:10 *Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! There is no end to the treasure,*

Deceitful

Nahum 3:1 *Woe to the city of blood, steeped in lies, full of prey, with no end to the plunder!*

Harlotrous

Nahum 3:4 *"Because of the continual whoring of this whore, ...*

Full of Sorcery

Nahum 3:4 *...this alluring mistress of sorcery, who sells nations with her whoring and families with her sorcery;*

Thus Nineveh like Babylon was a hellenistic city. It was a city consumed by its own desires, neglectful of the Lord. And this, I believe, is why the Lord lead me to read about it today. It is because we, like Babylon, like Nineveh, we have become emboldened to have more confidence in ourselves. But at the same time we have been convinced to depend on others,

on our current form of government, for our protection and safety as opposed to having confidence in the Lord and turning to him. Hence, we have become like the citizens of Babylon and Nineveh. Nimrod would probably feel right at home here today. He would find that we, likewise, are a selfish, immoral, violent, greedy, deceitful, harlotrous society who have been distracted away from the Lord by the sorcery of the enemy. **Therefore, we must be mindful of the enemy and of his spirit of rebellion. The Lord said,**

Isaiah 30:1 *“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit...”*

02/05/13 CT - **Get rid of any rebellious spirit you may have and follow Me.**

The Enemy

Through the words above we have learned that we are to be mindful of the Lord, following only Him, but the enemy continues trying to distract us. From THH <http://www.takehisheart.com/satandevil.htm#book> we have learned that:

Some pastors/people say that the devil is just a toothless lion making loud roars and that he is dumb. They probably have developed this notion because of the devil's misconceived idea that he could overthrow God! But, for the leaders of a church to say these things to an unlearned audience plants the wrong idea about Satan in their minds! These leaders are unknowingly being used by Satan! Neither Jesus, the disciples, nor the angels ever said these types of things about the devil. The Devil is the **"Master of Deception"** and a formidable enemy.

Jude 1:9

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Michael, the warring archangel, treated the devil with respect! If you don't think the devil is a formidable enemy and has caused a formidable problem, then why did God have/need to send His own Son to defeat him and take care of that problem? **We must understand that the devil knew full well what he was doing in the garden with Eve, and he knew full well what he was trying to do when he was tempting Jesus. Satan is the most intelligent creation of God. He knows and understands so much about God and His Word that he actually thought he could be as God and dethrone Him.**

If you think I am glorifying the devil too much, or raising the devil up too high, then let me share a truth! If you downplay the devil and his powers, then you have down played the Lord, what He did, and the whole Bible.

If you maintain that the devil is just a loud roar with no clout and not the **Master** of what he does, then you're saying the Lord didn't do much, that He didn't overcome much, that it really didn't matter! Our Lord overcame a formidable enemy! **Everything that is despicable and against God (and us) in any way originated in the devil! Wake up Church, he is your enemy. Don't play like he isn't there!**

Consequently, we must be aware that the devil, is our formidable enemy. We must also realize that he will attempt to use whatever means necessary to lure you away from the Lord. Why just recently, the Lord said this about the enemy:

02/05/13 CT - Do not allow the enemy to have a legal claim to you.

02/04/13 BN - Do not be fooled by the enemy, Test what you hear and see against My word and the truth will be revealed.

The Lord warned us to, Get rid of any rebellious spirit you may have and follow Me. He gave us this warning because He knew that rebellion comes from the enemy. Nimrod had a rebellious spirit. He wanted the attention and the power. The enemy used this. Therefore, Nimrod forgot the Lord and he led others away from the Lord as well.

Isaiah 30:1 *“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the Lord, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, and who devise plans, but not of My Spirit...*

Keep the Doors Closed

One of the things people always talk about when they speak of the enemy is that of “keeping the doors closed to him.” So I was meditating on this and the Lord led me to this scripture.

Ezekiel 12:1-2 *The word of ADONAI came to me: “Human being, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes that can see, but they don’t take notice; and they have ears that can hear, but they don’t pay attention; because they are a rebellious people.*

This verse, I think, is an important verse. I think it is important because it holds some clues for us. The most important of which is that a **rebellious people pay no attention to the Lord**. Evidently, the Lord is the furthestest thing from their mind. Therefore logically, we can gather from this, that if we want to keep the doors closed to the enemy, if we want to keep the doors closed to rebellion, **then we must keep the doors open to the Lord. We must pay attention to Him. He must have our focus.** This position, of course, is the opposite position from Nimrod.

01/31/13 BT - Be My disciple, be disciplined in My Ways. Tune out the World; turn down the volume; filter out the noise. Focus on Me and My agenda.

01/31/13 DP - Guiding into perfection walk closely to Me I have prepared the way for you to follow stay on path within it is victory. Listening ears receive, stay focused I have much for you to do.

02/01/13 BN - Always focused on Me and My will and My plan.

02/02/13 MVA - Selfless be. Obedience, diligence, single focus on your God Jesus.

02/03/13 SN - Focus on what I say.

There is no self in this dynamic. It’s not about your agenda or the enemy’s agenda it is about the Lord. The Lord said,

April 9th God Calling - Sin is conquered and forgiven, as you live and move and work with Me.

Therefore rebellion is conquered. And as we compare spiritual to spiritual, putting all the pieces together, we can gather that maintaining our focus on the Lord, followed by obedience, these are the crucial elements to keeping the doors closed to the enemy.

02/02/13 BN - Instant obedience is richly rewarded, Seek Me today and I will reveal.

02/04/13 MVA - Obedience to all will lead to precious fruit.

02/04/13 BN - **March along My path in My ways, follow Me in obedience and watch the doors open, My training and correction is for your benefit...to mold you into My image.**

02/05/13 DP - **you are to obey My commands.**

02/06/13 CT - **Defeat the enemy in your life by obedience to your King.**

What we have learned then is that obedience is one of the keys to keeping the door open to the Lord and shut to the enemy!

April 10th God Calling - Obedience is one of the keys unlocking the door into My Kingdom, so love and obey. No man can obey Me implicitly without in time realizing My Love, in his turn responding by love to that Love, and then experiencing the joy won of the beloved, and the lover.

The Lord, in fact, even had Nahum deliver a few words about obedience. He said,

Nahum 2:1-3 *Look! On the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, proclaiming shalom. Keep your festivals, Y-hudah, fulfill your vows; for B'liya 'al (Satan) will never pass through you again; he has been completely destroyed. A destroyer has risen in front of your face; guard your ramparts, keep watch on the road, brace yourselves, marshall all your strength. For ADONAI is restoring the pride of Ya'akov, along with the pride of Israel; because plunderers have plundered them and ravaged their vines.*

Keep your festivals, keep your vows and be obedient unto the Lord. Keep the doors closed to the enemy!

Your Defense

The Lord, of course, is very aware of the enemy and his games, his tactics. But the Lord wants you to be of good courage. He wants you to realize that He is and He will always be there for you. He will come to your defense. He will guide and instruct you. He will lead you down the path of righteousness, taking you far away from the harlotry of Nimrod. This is because He is a God of relationship as opposed to a conquering tyrant like Nimrod and his followers.

02/01/13 MVA - **I AM a God of equal opportunity. All who seek will find. Knowledge is given in obedience.**

02/02/13 MVA - **Your God Jesus guiding and instructing all who seek whole heartedly.**

02/05/13 CT - **In defense, I will come in your defense when the enemy tries to take over. I will never leave or desert you. I AM always there.**

02/05/13 DP - **I am with you.**

02/06/13 SN - **Approach, Take thy clothes off, (I tried to imagine being naked), Put garments of righteousness on, (I don't have any Lord I need them from you), Well said, Trust Me to put the pieces together, Call on My name and I will be there.**

Seek and you will find out that He will always be there. Yes, this relationship with the Lord and the aforementioned obedience, basically these are all summed up in the passage below where we learn to be strong in the Lord (focused on Him) and we learn to put on the whole armor of God (or in other words be entirely obedient unto Him). These is the message found in the passage below.

Ephesians 6:10-13 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand.*

What we have learned then is that obedience is one of the keys to keeping the door open to the Lord and shut to the enemy and keeping our focus on the Lord is equally important as well. So it's about focus and obedience!

The Analogy

And finally in closing out this lesson on Nimrod, the enemy and us, I think we should go to the book of Revelation where the Lord speaks of the last days. In this section He specifically mentions "Babylon the Great". As you read below I think you will see that in this context the Lord is using the name "Babylon" as an analogy, or allegory, for a modern day "kingdom" or lifestyle that will have the same type of culture as that of the original Babylon. It will be dominated by immoral persons who are unfaithful to the Holy One of Israel. They will be a people who rely heavily on self just as Nimrod convinced the people of old. They will take part in magic, oracles, charms, astrology relying upon these for their answers as opposed to seeking their guidance from the Lord. And as mentioned earlier, "Isn't this exactly what we see happening today?" It is of these people whom the Lord said,

Revelation 17:1-5 *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and talked with me, saying to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication." So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*

In this passage the Lord is speaking of a people who will be alive in end times. They will be a harlotrous, fornicating people, full of blasphemies. Therefore the Lord continues warning Babylonian-type peoples. He continues to try and get their attention. He wants to take them away from the harlotries, abominations, filth, and fornications of today's society. He even wants to take them away from the traditions of men. What I am saying is that the Lord wants everyone to join Him. For this reason He has said this,

01/06/13 MVA - **Keep focus forward. Always look where you are going. Forward in your God Jesus.**

01/06/13 BN - **Gather it up, Pay attention.**

01/06/13 DP - **Be focused on Me I am revealing what comes next continually step by step instructions.**

01/31/13 DP - **Be an example to your brothers and sisters let them know I love them.**

01/31/13 SN - **Do all you can to find Me.**

01/31/13 MVA - **Stay on point, focused on the agenda of your God Jesus.**

02/05/13 CT - **Take care of business.**

He is directing, He is guiding, He is warning us of these times not only for us but for our **brothers and sisters** as well.

Summation

In this lesson the Lord had us look at the enemy and his tactics. He showed us how the enemy works through other human beings. He demonstrated this through Nimrod and the Babylonians. We came to understand that the Babylonians turned away from the Lord first glorifying self but ultimately they willingly entered into subjection to another human being. Speaking very basically, they turned their focus away from the Lord. But the Lord also made a point of comparing today's society with that of the Babylonians. He taught us that we have much in common with each other. Therefore we must be ever mindful of what is grabbing our attention. But our obedience unto the Lord is equally important because as we are all well aware that it is both disinterest and disobedience that opens the door to the enemy. This week the Lord added this,

01/31/13 BT – **I have the plan for each of you. Each of you are Mine; each of you are precious to Me; more precious than you can imagine. Yield yourself to Me. Let the Master mold you and shape you. Be yielded in My hand.**

02/05/13 DP - **Obedience affects many, be obedient. Trained, go forth, follow step by step. The way is laid before you. It leads to victory, obedience ensures victory.**

02/06/13 LW – **Fear nothing, no one, for I have overcome the world.**

02/06/13 BN - **Compare spiritual on spiritual and the truth will be revealed.**

Remember Jesus taught us that,

Luke 6:40 *“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher.”*

Jesus gave us the perfect example to follow, hence, we must emulate Him. And in closing, here is a passage that perfectly sums up this lesson and our relationship with the Lord. We are to share in fellowship, giving our testimonies, keeping our focus on Him, eliminating all elements of rebellion.

Psalm 78:1-8... *Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should make them known to their children; That the generation to come might know them, The children who would be born, That they may arise and declare them to their children, That they may set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments; And may not be like their fathers. A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.*

And the Lord said,

02/06/13 CT - Splendor, royalty, I AM the one true King. Honor and Respect your King, inside of and outside of our meetings. Honor and respect Me in your daily life. Be a fit subject. Carry yourself worthy of your position. Embrace all My subjects, My children. Allow them to see the love and concern I have for each and everyone of them while at the same time honoring Me. Defeat the enemy in your life by obedience to your King.

Honor your King, be a fit subject, and defeat the enemy. Close the Babylonian chapter in your life and submit to **the one true King**. This is how we are to proceed forward in our day.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You,
Cindy

<http://www.takehisheart.com>