

JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

Nahum: *“A Refuge in Times of Trouble”*

Nahum 1:1-15

¹ A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

² The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.

The Lord takes vengeance on his foes
and vents his wrath against his enemies.

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Nahum 1:1-15

³ The Lord is slow to anger but great in power;
the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.

His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

⁴ He rebukes the sea and dries it up;
he makes all the rivers run dry.

Bashan and Carmel wither
and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

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Nahum 1:1-15

⁵ The mountains quake before him
and the hills melt away.

The earth trembles at his presence,
the world and all who live in it.

⁶ Who can withstand his indignation?

Who can endure his fierce anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire;
the rocks are shattered before him.

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Nahum 1:1-15

⁷ The LORD is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.

He cares for those who trust in him,

⁸ but with an overwhelming flood
he will make an end of Nineveh;

he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

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Nahum 1:1-15

⁹ Whatever they plot against the LORD

he will bring to an end;

trouble will not come a second time.

¹⁰ They will be entangled among thorns

and drunk from their wine;

they will be consumed like dry stubble.

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Nahum 1:1-15

¹¹ From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans.

¹² This is what the LORD says:

“Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away.

Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more.

¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.”

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Nahum 1:1-15

¹⁴ The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh:

“You will have no descendants to bear your name.

I will destroy the images and idols
that are in the temple of your gods.

I will prepare your grave,
for you are vile.”

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Nahum 1:1-15

¹⁵ Look, there on the mountains,
the feet of one who brings good news,
who proclaims peace!

Celebrate your festivals, Judah,
and fulfill your vows.

No more will the wicked invade you;
they will be completely destroyed.

JUDGMENT,
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AND HOPE

Outline

1. The Comfort of God's Wrath
2. The Comfort of God's Refuge
3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Nahum 1:2, 6; ch. 2; ch. 3

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Defined

God's wrath is his holy hatred of and righteous judgment against sin.

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Expressed

1:2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.

The Lord takes vengeance on his foes
and vents his wrath against his enemies.

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Expressed

1:6 Who can withstand his indignation?

Who can endure his fierce anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire;

the rocks are shattered before him.

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

“poured out”

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

- **Idolatry (1:14)** ...I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods.

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

- Idolatry (1:14)
- Being enemies of God and his people ...*who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans (1:11) ...destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines. (2:2)*

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

- Idolatry (1:14)
- Being enemies of God and his people (1:11; 2:2)
- Cruel violence (3:1, 19) ... *Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! ...who has not felt your endless cruelty?*

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

- Idolatry (1:14)
- Being enemies of God and his people (1:11; 2:2)
- Cruel violence (3:1, 19)
- Unfair, unwise business practices (3:16) *You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more numerous than the stars in the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away.*

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

- Idolatry (1:14)
- Being enemies of God and his people (1:11; 2:2)
- Cruel violence (3:1, 19)
- Unfair, unwise business practices (3:16)

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Executed

2:1 An attacker advances against you, Nineveh.

Guard the fortress,
watch the road,
brace yourselves,
marshal all your strength!

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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Defined

Wrath Expressed

Wrath Executed

Wrath Experienced as Comfort

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Ashur, Assyrian god of war, the sun



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1. The Comfort of God's Wrath

Wrath Defined

Wrath Expressed

Wrath Executed

Wrath Experienced as Comfort

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2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

Nahum 1:3, 7; Exodus 34:6-7

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2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

Nah. 1:2 The Lord is a jealous and avenging God;
the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.

The Lord takes vengeance on his foes
and vents his wrath against his enemies.

³ The Lord is *slow to anger but great in power*;
the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.

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2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

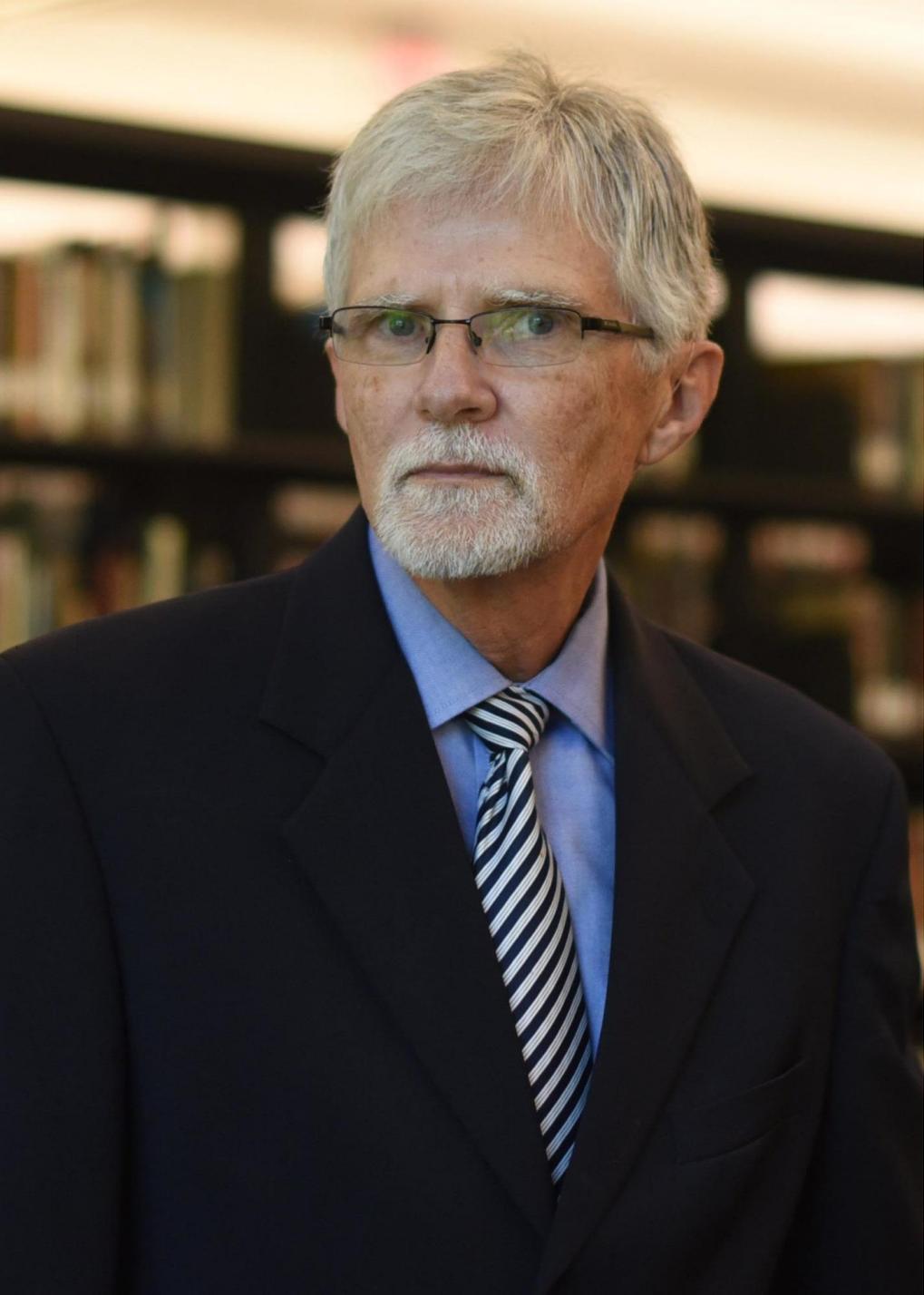
Ex. 34:6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."

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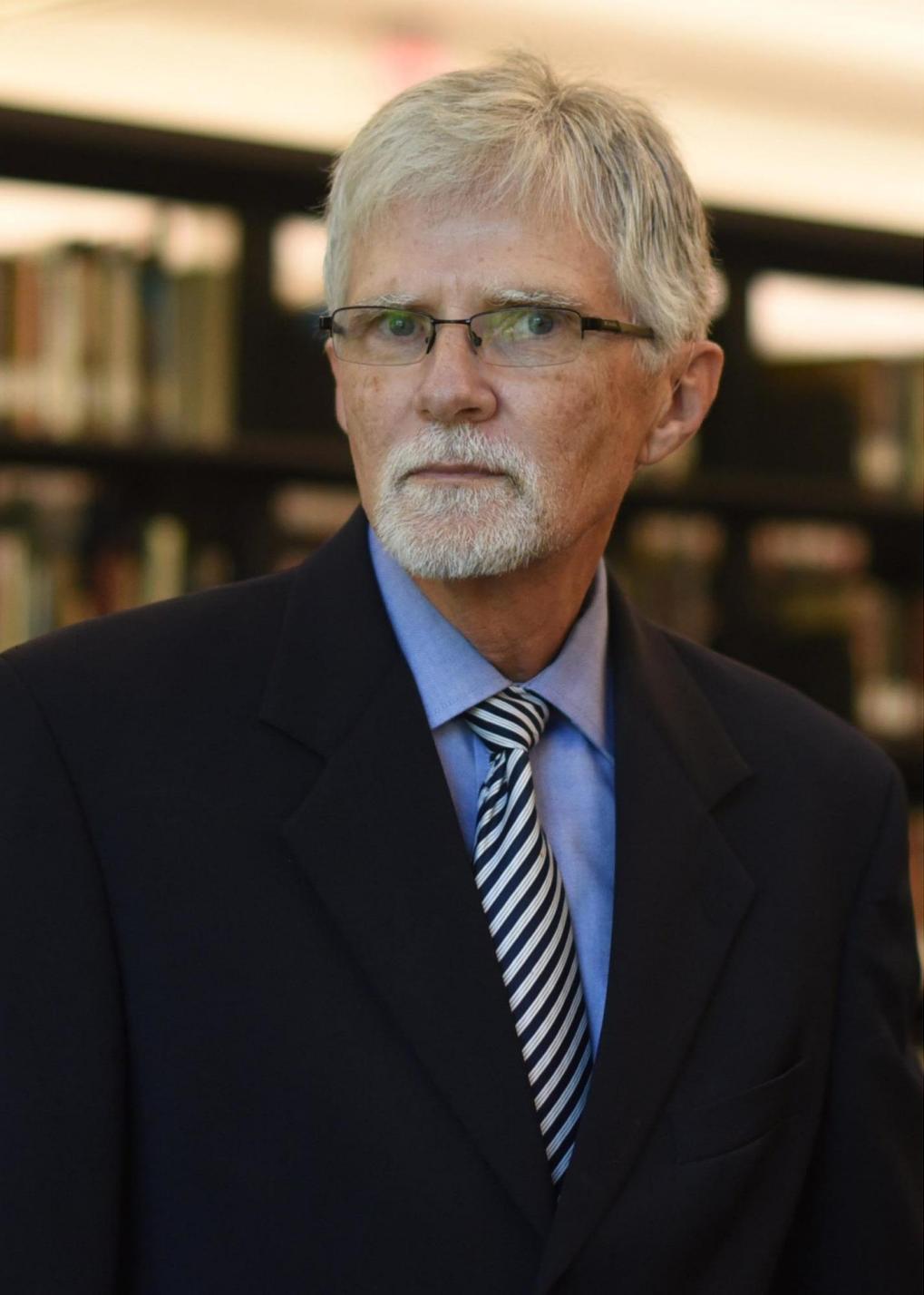
2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

Nah. 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power;
the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.

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“The collocation of God’s slowness to anger and his power is noteworthy since God’s longsuffering is most commonly associated with his compassion. Whereas human vengeance reckons with its victims swiftly out of concern that the enemy may somehow prevail, God is not threatened by any. His delay in executing judgment is not out of weakness but power.



“If he had less power, he would be less patient. Divine patience is not evidence of inability or indifference, but rather that which is designed to lead to repentance (Romans 2:4) and to remove any excuse from sinners.”

— Michael P. V. Barrett,
Nahum: A Commentary

2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

Nah. 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger but great in power;
the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished.

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2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

Nah. 1:6 Who can withstand his indignation?

Who can endure his fierce anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire;
the rocks are shattered before him.

⁷ The LORD is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.

He cares for those who trust in him.

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98 Bible results for "refuge" from New International Version. Results 1-25.

SUGGESTED RESULT [Helpful](#) [Not Helpful](#)

Psalm 62:8
Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our **refuge**.
[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

BIBLE SEARCH RESULTS

Psalm 2:12 Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take **refuge** in him.
[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Psalm 5:11 But let all who take **refuge** in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.
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Psalm 7:1 Psalm 7

25 results per page

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2. The Comfort of God's Refuge

⁷ The LORD is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him.

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To those who are in trouble, God is the only refuge!
We may go to the *creature*, and obtain no benefit;
but, if we make our application to God, he will hear
and help us. In him we shall be as in an impregnable
fortress; and if the whole human race were combined
for our destruction, not a hair of our head would
perish. Let every one of us then turn unto God; and
we shall find him a very present help in times of
trouble.

— Charles Simeon, *Horae Homileticae*, 1832

THE CHURCH - THE WORD OF GOD

364 How Firm a Foundation

**How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

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3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

Nahum 1:15; 2:2

JUDGMENT,
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3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

¹⁵ Look, there on the mountains,
the feet of one who brings good news,
who proclaims peace!

Celebrate your festivals, Judah,
and fulfill your vows.

No more will the wicked invade you;
they will be completely destroyed.

JUDGMENT,
SALVATION,
AND HOPE

3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

2:2 The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob
like the splendor of Israel,
though destroyers have laid them waste
and have ruined their vines.

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3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

The good news:

- Restoration of peace (“proclaiming peace...no more will the wicked invade you...” Nah. 1:15)

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3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

The good news:

- Restoration of peace (“proclaiming peace” 1:15)
- Restoration of God-honoring worship (“Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows.” 1:15)

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3. The Comfort of God's Restoration

The good news:

- Restoration of peace (“proclaiming peace” 1:15)
- Restoration of God-honoring worship (“Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows.” 1:15)
- Restoration of splendor (“The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel.” 2:2)

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Conclusion

➤ **We are born more like Nineveh than Judah.**

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Conclusion

- **We are born more like Nineveh than Judah.**
- **We need a refuge.**

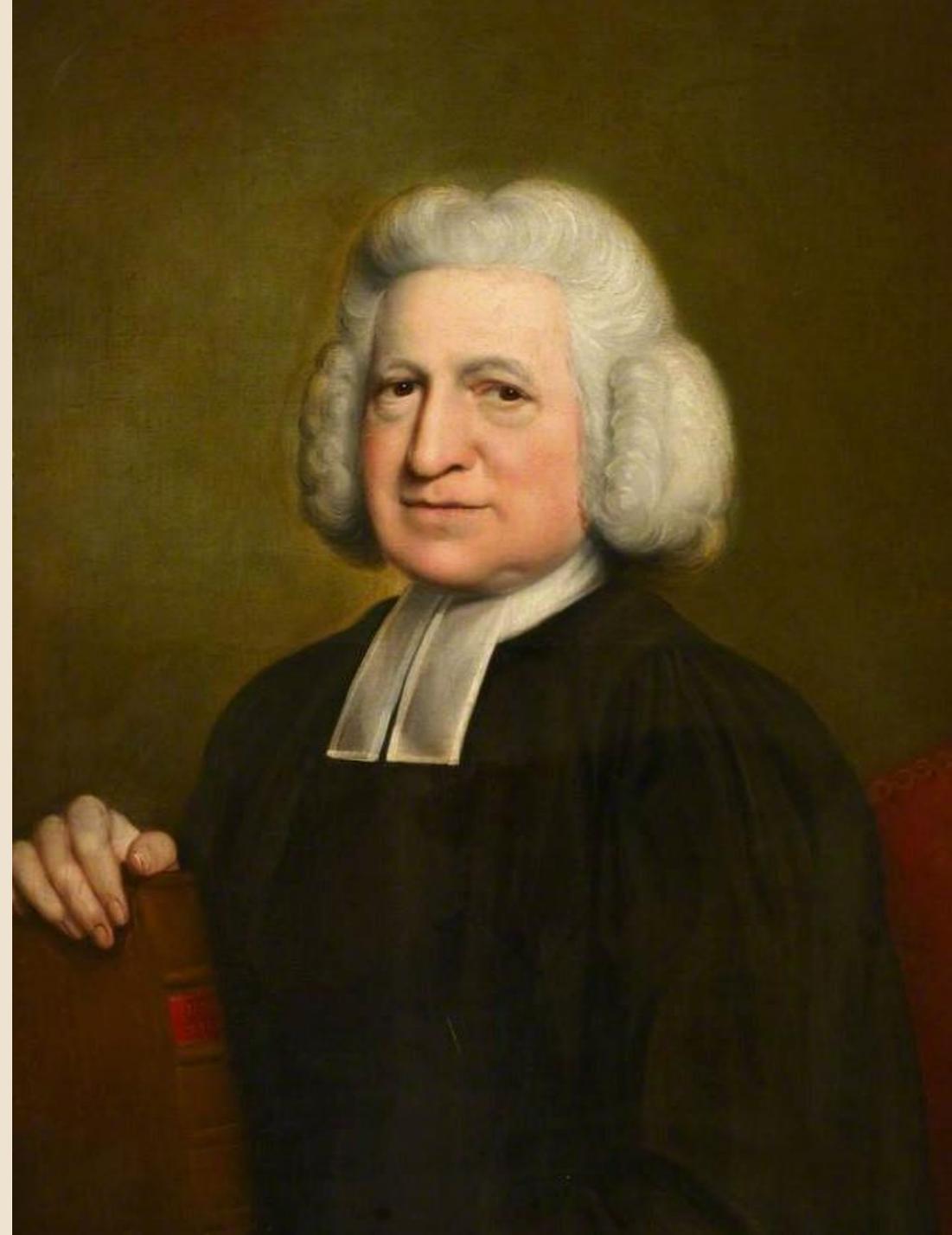
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Conclusion

- **We are born more like Nineveh than Judah.**
- **We need a refuge.**
- **Keep the bigger picture in mind.**

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Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, ah! leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on Thee is stayed,
All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing.



Plenteous grace with Thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

— Charles Wesley

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul,” 1838



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