

# Nahum 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

## Analysis

Two rhetorical questions escalate the terror of divine judgment: 'Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger?' The Hebrew charah (burning anger) depicts fury like fire, while za'am (indignation) suggests righteous wrath against moral evil. The implied answer is: no one. When God rises in judgment, no human power can resist or endure. The imagery intensifies: 'his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him' (chamato nittekah ka'esh vehatzurim nittzu mimmennu). God's wrath isn't abstract disapproval but active, consuming judgment pictured as volcanic fire melting rocks. If solid rock—symbol of permanence and strength—dissolves before God's fury, how can Nineveh's walls and armies stand? This verse demolishes false security. Nineveh trusted in military might, fortified walls, and strategic location. Yet none of these offer protection when the Judge of all the earth acts. The only safety is found not in resisting God but in taking refuge in Him (verse 7). Those who oppose God will be consumed; those who trust Him will be protected.

## Historical Context

Assyrian military power was legendary. Their armies had conquered from Egypt to Persia, from Anatolia to the Persian Gulf. Nineveh's walls were reportedly 50 feet thick and 100 feet high, supposedly wide enough for three chariots to ride abreast. The city seemed impregnable. Yet Nahum prophesies its utter destruction, and historical records confirm the prophecy. In 612 BC, Babylon and Media besieged

Nineveh. According to ancient historians, flooding weakened the walls, enabling conquest. The city was burned and destroyed so completely that it became a byword for divine judgment. Archaeological excavations reveal massive destruction layers confirming the city's violent end. This historical fulfillment proves that no earthly power can resist God's decreed judgment, no matter how strong it appears.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What false securities—wealth, power, relationships, abilities—do people today trust instead of God?
2. How does the certainty and severity of divine judgment against wickedness affect your evangelistic urgency?
3. In what ways does Christ's bearing of God's wrath on the cross demonstrate both the reality of divine fury and the provision of divine mercy?

## Interlinear Text

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לֹפֶנְתִּי יִעַמְדוּ מִי יִעַמְדֵי מִי יִלְבְּדֵי  
before his indignation H4310 Who can stand H4310 and who can abide H6965  
H6440 H2195 H5975

בְּפִרְבָּרְלִי אֲפִי חַמְתָּנוּ נָתַךְ הָיָה כַּא שׁ וּבְאֶרְעָם  
in the fierceness of his anger his fury is poured out like fire and the rocks  
H2740 H639 H2534 H5413 H784 H6697

מִתְּפִלָּה נָתַתָּצְאָה  
are thrown down  
H5422 H4480

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 10:10** (Parallel theme): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

**Malachi 3:2** (Parallel theme): But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' sope:

**Psalms 76:7** (Parallel theme): Thou, even thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in thy sight when once thou art angry?

**Nahum 1:2** (Parallel theme): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

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