

# 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

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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

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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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**Psalms 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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לִפְנֵי י	זַעֲמוֹ	מִי	יַעֲמֹד	וּמִי	יָקִי וְיָבִי
before	his indignation	H4310	Who can stand	H4310	and who can abide
H6440	H2195		H5975		H6965
בְּחֵר וּן	אֵפֹי	חֲמָתוֹ	נִתְּכָה	כָּאֵשׁ	וְהָצֵר יָם
in the fierceness	of his anger	his fury	is poured out	like fire	and the rocks
H2740	H639	H2534	H5413	H784	H6697
נִתְּצוּ	מִמֶּנּוּ:				
are thrown down	H4480				
H5422					

## 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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