

Nahum 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.

Analysis

Thou also shalt be drunken (gam-at tishkeri, גַּם־אֶתְּ תִשְׁכֶּרֶי)—after describing Thebes' fate, Nahum turns directly to Nineveh: 'you also' will be drunk. Drunkenness here symbolizes divine judgment—the cup of God's wrath. Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets use this metaphor: nations 'drink' judgment until they stagger and collapse. The comparison is devastating: just as Thebes fell, so will Nineveh.

Thou shalt be hid (tihiy ne'alamah)—you will be hidden or obscure (alam, אָלַם). This could mean hiding in fear during attack, or being hidden by destruction—buried and forgotten. History fulfilled both meanings: Nineveh's defenders hid during the siege, and afterward the city was so thoroughly destroyed it was literally hidden under earth for millennia. **Thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy** (gam-at tevaqeshi ma'oz me'oyev)—you will desperately seek refuge from the enemy, but find none. When God's judgment comes, no stronghold provides security.

Historical Context

The metaphor of drinking God's cup of wrath appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15-28, Habakkuk 2:16). Nations that persist in evil eventually 'drink' judgment until they stagger and fall. Nineveh had forced this cup on others for centuries; now it was their turn. In 612 BC, the prophecy was fulfilled precisely. Nineveh sought refuge in its massive fortifications but found no security.

The city fell, and its destruction was so complete that it was literally 'hidden'—buried under sand and earth. When archaeologists rediscovered Nineveh in the 1840s, they fulfilled Nahum's prophecy by making visible what had been hidden for over 2,000 years.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the metaphor of drinking God's cup of wrath teach about the cumulative nature of divine judgment against persistent sin?
2. How does Nineveh being 'hidden' by destruction demonstrate the totality and finality of God's judgment?
3. What does it mean that no earthly stronghold provides refuge when God's judgment arrives, and where should believers seek true security?

Interlinear Text

גַּם	אַ תִּי	תִּשְׁכָּר י	תִּהְיֶה י	נֶעְלָמָה ה	גַּם	אַ תִּי
H1571	H859		H1961		H1571	H859
		Thou also shalt be drunken		thou shalt be hid		
		H7937		H5956		
	תִּבְקֹשׁ י	מֵעֹז	מֵאֹיֵב:			
	thou also shalt seek	strength	because of the enemy			
	H1245	H4581	H341			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 2:10 (Parallel theme): Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

Isaiah 49:26 (Parallel theme): And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunken with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 2:19 (Parallel theme): And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Psalms 75:8 (Parallel theme): For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.

Jeremiah 4:5 (Parallel theme): Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.

Nahum 1:10 (Parallel theme): For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

Luke 23:30 (Parallel theme): Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

Hosea 10:8 (Parallel theme): The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.