

Love & War #2
When Our Greatest Fears Come True

Word

Scripture Reference

Nahum 1:9–2:2

Discussion Questions

1. What is your greatest fear? Share with the group.
2. Everyone has his/her own fear in life. For people to deem success as important, their greatest fear is failure. For those who place great importance on security and well-being, health, wealth, and matters that threaten their safety are a great cause of concern. For others who value their legacy, they fear being forgotten or deemed irrelevant. These three fears in life were what God brought to the Assyrians because of their opposition to God and His people. The fall of the Assyrians tells us how a rightfully wrathful God could bring about our greatest fears to life if we don't humble ourselves before Him. Read Nahum 1:9–2:2. We see in this passage three fears that God brought about to the Assyrians:
 - a. *Fear #1: Success will come to an end (v. 9-11).* Nineveh had plotted evil against God and His people. They conspired against God, but God removed the Assyrians' ability to succeed. What you need to realize is this: God is sovereign, and everything is under His control. If you live in sin, He will not allow you to prosper for long, and if He does not allow your plans to come through, your success will eventually come to an end. Is it wrong to be successful? When does success go wrong? Discuss how people (even Christians) relate self-worth to worldly success, and how it affects that person's character. What dangers loom when you begin to think that way? What would be the best way to handle success? Discuss.
 - b. *Fear #2: Your security is no longer assured (v. 12-13).* Nineveh thought that they lived in the safest city because of their numbers and their fortified wall. But God assured His people in Judah that as powerful as the Assyrians were, God would destroy them and would never allow them to torment God's people again. This same

news must have been hard for the Assyrians to accept. Their security was based on their power, but safety was no longer assured. Discuss what happens when your security has been compromised (e.g. theft, lawsuit, broken friendships, illness, natural calamities)? How do you feel when your security is shattered? With whom do you trust your life? What assurance do you have that God will take care of you?

- c. *Fear #3: Your legacy will no longer be perpetuated (v. 14).* God told the Assyrians that they would have no descendants to bear their name. They will no longer be relevant and no one would remember them. How important is legacy to you? As someone who puts your trust in God, your legacy will be perpetuated. Share how you would want to be remembered especially by your loved ones. Discuss how your walk with God could be carried on to the next generation.
3. God brings about the greatest fears of those who oppose Him and do not trust Him. However, this same God is a loving God who brings about the greatest dreams of those who place their lives in His hands (v. 15-2:2):
 - a. *Dream #1: Your true success will come in God's hands (v. 15).* Success is guaranteed when opposition has been cut off. In the hands of the God who can deal with the enemy as completely as He did with the Assyrians, your success is definitely guaranteed. Share how you turned your life around because the Lord helped you deal with something that you could not deal with yourself.
 - b. *Dream #2: Your security is absolutely guaranteed in God's hands (v. 2:1).* It was God's power that destroyed the Assyrians' security. As a child of God, you are eternally secured because your enemy has been defeated through Christ Jesus. God battles for you—how could you be defeated when you are not the one doing the fighting? You don't have to fear; you simply need to sit back and let God to fight for you. Think about how something bad may happen to you at any time, but you are still alive and healthy. How do you feel about that? How do you put your daily security and protection in the hands of God? How does trusting Him for security make a difference in your life? What does it mean to you that you have eternal security because of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

- c. *Dream #3: Your legacies are perpetuated in the hands of God (v. 14).* God is the One who gives and restores. God restored Israel to excellence, so they can be remembered forever. Your work for the Lord, which are written in the annals of heaven, will be remembered for eternity. What are the good things that you are doing for God right now that will be recalled in eternity? How does knowing that God will always remember you help you not to worry about your legacy?

Walk

Examine how you live your life. Are you living in fear of failure, feeling threatened in your security, or worrying about being forgotten and irrelevant? Or do you put your success, security, and legacy in the hands of God? The relationship you have with God is up to you. What kind of relationship will you choose?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have so many fears in my life. Please forgive me for not wholly trusting in You. Help me to put my successes, security and legacy in Your hands. Thank You because I don't have to live in fear, knowing that You are the One fighting with my enemy who troubles and torments me so that I won't live in peace. Thank you that with You, I cannot be moved nor shaken because I am safe in Your hands. Help me to do things to others that are pleasing to You, that my legacy be to give honor to Your Name now and in eternity. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.