LENSS THIS QUARTER
1) 01 March Nahun 1-3 Don't Mess with God
2) 08 March Zephaniah 1-2 Everyone is Accountable
3) 15 March Zephaniah 3. Our Great Salvation
4) 22 March Obadiah Compasion for Lost People
5) 29 March Zechariah 1-12 The Promised Messiah
6) 05 April Luke 24:1-12 The Declaration
7) 12 April Luke 24:19-35 The Promise Fulfilled
8) 19 April Zechariah 13-14 A Refined People
9) 26 April Habakkuk 1-2 Hard Questions, Hard Answers
10) 03 May Habakkuk 3 Awestruck
11) 10 May Haggai 1-2 Seek God First
12) 17 May Malachi 1 True Hope
13) 24 May Malachi 2 Faithful
14) 31 May Malachi 3 A Pure People

INTRODUCTION
- The Book of Nahum is a poem for easy remembrance, written prior to the Babylonian exile, to be a constant reminder of God's attributes and what God will do to unrepentant sinners
- Nineveh. The ruins of ancient Nineveh lie beneath the modern city of Mosul, Iraq
  - In 2003, the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, a 21,000-strong force under General David Petraeus, controlled Mosul. After the U.S. departure, ISIS captured the city in June 2014 and still controls it, but it is being bombed regularly by U.S.-led coalition forces
- Like the Book of Jonah, Nahum has center stage in Nahum; and the nation it represented was noted for cruelty to conquered peoples. Amos 1
- They plundered, raped, pillaged, and committed genocide
- They deported and enslaved entire populations
- They humiliated & demonalized conquered peoples by parading them naked; and often executed them mercilessly and cruelly
- God offered Nineveh a chance to repent under Jonah a 160 years before, but her repentance was short-lived
- Question of the Day: Is "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin" biblical?

PASSAGE
- God will Restore Israel and Devastate Her Enemies
  - v2. Attribute #1 – God is a jealous God
  - Attribute #2 – God is an avenging God
  - Attribute #3 – God is relentless
  - Attribute #4 – God is a God of wrath
  - v3. Attribute #5 – God is slow to anger (lit. "length of two nostrils" – Hebrew is a picturesque language, so picture flaring of the nostrils when angered over time)
  - Attribute #6 – God is a God of great power
  - vv.5. Attribute #7 – God controls the weather, seas, and earthquakes for His purpose. Amos 3:6
  - v7. Attribute #8 – God is good (morally and skillfully)
  - Attribute #9 – God is a refuge in times of trouble
  - Attribute #10 – God cares for those who trust in Him

PASSAGE COMMENTS
Other Passages on What God Hates, Abhors, Despises, and Loathes
- Leviticus 20:23 God abhors the 7 nations that Israel displaced for their sins – for their murders, idolatries, child sacrifices, adulteries, homosexuality, incest, and bestiality
- Leviticus 26:30 God will abhor Israel if they commit similar sins
- Psalm 5:5 God hates all workers of iniquity
- Psalm 5:6 God abhors the bloody and deceitful man
- Psalm 11:5 God hates the wicked and him that loves violence
- Proverbs 6:16-19 God hates 7 behaviors: 1) A proud look; 2) a lying tongue; 3) hands that shed innocent blood; 4) a heart that devises wicked things; 5) feet that run to mischief; 6) A false witness; and 7) he that sows discord among brethren
- Hosea 9:15 God hated Israel for their wickedness, and said, “I will love them no more”
- Zephaniah 11:8 God’s soul loathes Israel’s leaders, and their soul also abhorred Him
- Malachi 1:3 / Romans 9:13 God loved Jacob, but hated Esau for his sins

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS
- The phrase “Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin” falls in the same category as “God helps those who help themselves” – Those cliches contain some semblance to truth, but they do not factor in the whole counsel of God
- It’s true God loves the repentant sinner, BUT He hates the unrepentant
- Though God patiently waits for the wicked to repent as He is a merciful God, and He loved the world (elect and non-elect) to send His Son to be a sacrifice for their sins, yet His judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy (aka, the unrepentant) ……”James 2:13
- BUT, we are not to go “ISIS” on anyone. Final retribution is God’s job.
- We are to exhibit God’s love & mercy to encourage sinners to repent

NEXT WEEK: Zephaniah 1-2. We will see that man’s wickedness will one day force God to remove man & beast, birds & fish from the face of the earth – BUT “perhaps” the righteous will be hidden from the Lord’s anger

Some people remind me of old TV sets. You have to tune them a little times till they get the picture.

Rod O'Neil (rod.onell@twc.com)