

The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm. Nahum 1 : 3

GOD'S DEALINGS ARE OFTEN TERRIBLE. He rides on the whirlwind, and wraps Himself in the storm. But the child of God looks beneath the dress to the Father's heart, which beats with as much love when attired thus as when arrayed in the smiles of a summer eve. The whirlwind serves a useful purpose in cleaning the trees of rotten boughs, and searching the corners of foetid courts; the storm, in deluging the gulleys and drains; the clouds, in forming the fertilizing showers on the thirsty land. God is in it all. God is behind the tempests that sweep over and desolate your life: this is his way; and the clouds that overcast your sky are the pavement of his feet; on our side they seem dark and lowering; but on the other side they are like burnished gold, as He steps across them. Whenever clouds are above, remember that God is at hand. They are the dust of his feet.

GOD'S WAY IS GENERALLY HIDDEN. The clouds as dust conceal Him; but we must not dwell with melancholy foreboding on the clouds, as if they were all. God is behind them, working for us, coming to our rescue, showing Himself strong on our behalf. Whenever the clouds gather over your life, say God cannot be far off--see, the dust He raises in his mighty progress betrays Him.

GOD COUNTS OUR GREAT THINGS AS VERY TRIFLING. A cloud is a great thing to us; it sometimes seems to equal the Alps in magnificence, in height, in girth; but to God it is only as a grain of dust to us. Our difficulties, perplexities, and anxieties, are very little things to Him. With one movement of his hand He could sweep them away, as you can move dust-motes from your table. Trust Him! Your tears are much to Him; your difficulties nothing.

祂乘旋風和暴風而來。 鴻一3

神的處置常是可怕的。祂乘著旋風，並把自己裹在暴風裡。但神的孩子看見在這裝扮下天父的心，祂這樣威嚴的裝扮與祂穿上夏日黃昏的微笑，心中懷著同樣的愛。旋風是用來清理枝幹腐爛的樹，搜索惡臭庭院的角落；暴風雨是用來淹沒陰溝和下水道；雲彩是用來形成豐沛的陣雨，降在乾渴的土地上。神在这一切裡面。神就在清掃並破壞你人生風暴的背後，這是祂行事的方式；那遮蔽你天空的雲是祂腳下的步道；從我們這面看，這些似乎陰沉昏暗；但在另一面，卻像光亮的金子，因為祂要步行走過。每當你頭上有雲，記住神就在附近。雲彩是祂腳下的塵土(3節)。

神的道路常是隱藏的。雲彩像塵土一樣遮住祂；但我們一定不要停留在雲靄的悲傷預感裡，好像這就是一切。其實神在雲彩背後，為我們作工，來拯救我們，為我們顯示祂的大能。每當烏雲聚集覆蓋你的生命，說明神離你不遠 — 看啊，祂大步前進，揚起的塵埃正顯露祂自己。

神看我們的大事是極小的事。一片雲對於我們來說是大事；從高度和寬度來看，這片雲有時和阿爾卑斯山一樣雄偉高大；但對於神來說，只像我們所看到的一粒灰塵。我們的困難、困惑、和焦慮，對於祂都是極微小的事。祂的手一動，就可以把這些難處掃除，就像你能夠從你桌上抹去微塵一樣。你要信靠祂！你的困難不算什麼；你的眼淚對祂才重要。

The Lord bringeth again the excellency of Jacob. Nahum 2:2 (R.V.)

Too long Nineveh had exerted her malign influence upon the fortunes of the chosen people; that, to use the expressive simile of the eleventh verse, it had resembled a den of lions, whence ravenous beasts prowl forth to devour the villagers. The Assyrians, pouring forth from their mighty metropolis, had devastated the excellency of Jacob, the cry of the land had gone up to Jehovah; and He here declares his determination to quell the enemy and avenger, and to bring again the excellency of the people whom He loved.

It may be that you, too, have been carried into captivity, or devastated by strongly besetting sins; though you pray and yearn for emancipation, still you are kept low by the depredations of the power of evil. But be of good cheer; God is moving to your help. He is against those who are against you; He will bring again your excellency. He resembles the mother, whose child is smitten with smallpox. Does she love it less? Nay, but comes nearer, that they may fight the disease together.

You shall excel in faith when the hindrance is removed. The faith that once characterized you shall arouse with its former vigour, and make an open pathway down which heaven's best blessings may enter your life. At its summons the unseen will become more real than the seen, and God will be all in all. You shall excel also in hope. This is the realizing faculty, accepting the assurances of faith following them as the beacon-lights that guide weary sailors; for hope is more than faith, as the artist is more than the preparer of colours. You shall also excel in love. When self-will looses its hold upon the soul, love springs spontaneously from its soil.

耶和華復興雅各的榮華。 鴻二2

長久以來尼尼微對於神選民的興隆產生惡劣的影響；在第11節意味深長的比喻裡，尼尼微好像獅子的一個洞穴，饑餓的野獸從獅子穴出來搜巡，吞食村民。亞述人從強大的首都湧出，摧毀了雅各的榮華，這地的哀聲上達到耶和華那裡；神在這裡宣佈祂的決定，要鎮壓敵人和報仇的，並復興祂所愛之民的榮華。

可能你也被擄，或被強大且不斷攪擾的罪毀壞；儘管你禱告渴望解脫，但你仍舊被邪惡勢力掠奪，處在低賤之中。但你不要垂頭喪氣；神正動身來幫助你。祂對抗你的仇敵；並要復興你的榮華。祂就像一位母親，她的孩子被天花摧殘。她對患病孩子的愛少了嗎？不，她反而更靠近，這樣就可以一起對抗疾病。

當障礙移除，你的信心就必加強。這信心一旦成為你的品格特徵，就帶著原有的活力興起並打開一條通路，藉此通路，天上最美好的祝福可以進入你的生命。在這信心的使喚下，那不可見的必變得比可見的更真實，神必成為一切，又在一切之內(西三11另譯)。你的盼望也必加強。盼望乃是使所信的成為實際的能力，接受並跟隨信心的確據，就像疲憊的水手接受燈塔明光的指引；盼望勝過信心，就像畫家強過配製顏料的人。你的愛也必加強。當固執的心不再堅持時，愛就自然地從心田湧出來。

There is no assuaging of thy hurt; thy wound is grievous. Nahum 3:19 (R.V.)

This is one of the greatest chapters in Old Testament prophecy. Nahum the Elkoshite was a man of uncommon power of imagination and force of eloquence. His denunciation of Nineveh is remarkably forcible and eloquent. You can almost hear the crack of the whip, the rattling of wheels, and see the heap of corpses that block the passages. Every traveller, from Layard downwards, has attested the literal fulfilment of these predictions. For Nineveh, from the time of her fall to the present, has been utterly waste. Her hurt has never been assuaged. A scar upon the earth's surface alone marks her site.

From such a spectacle we may well turn to our beloved country, and seriously question whether we are doing all that we can to stay a similar fate. There are many signs that she is being swept along in the same stream as has borne many mighty nations down to ruin. The growing luxury of the rich; the abject poverty of the poor (a child was burned in Whitechapel the other day through the mother having to sell the fire-guard to buy bread); the gross impurity and immorality of our streets; the increasing desecration of the Rest Day; and the overwhelming bill for drink--these things cannot be unpunished. May we not indeed fear that God will soon rise against us? Let us use our influence as citizens, and our prayer as saints, to avert a fate which if it comes will be irretrievable.

Ah, reader, is this thy case? Hast thou an inward hurt, of which no balm or medicine has brought assuagement? Has thou a wound, so grievous that no art has sufficed to heal it? Take it to the Living Saviour. Each of his miracles, in the days of his flesh, has a spiritual counterpart still.

你的損傷無法醫治，你的傷痕極其重大。 鴻三19

這是舊約預言中一篇極偉大的篇章。伊勒歌斯人那鴻是一個具有不尋常的想像力且雄辯滔滔的人。他對尼尼微的譴責具有強大說服力。你幾乎能夠聽到響亮鞭聲，車輪轟轟(2節)，看到屍體成堆阻斷通路(3節)。每一個旅行者，從喇亞爾得[註]以來，都證實這些預言已經按字面應驗。尼尼微從陷落到現在一直完全荒涼。她的損傷一直沒有得到醫治。地表上只有一個傷痕標出她的位置。

從這樣一個奇觀，我們很有理由來轉向我們所愛的國家[指英國，作者的國家]，並嚴肅質問，我們是否正在做一切使我們留在同樣結局的事。有許多跡象表明，把尼尼微沖毀的河流同樣也毀滅了許多強大的國家。富人逐漸奢華；窮人淒慘貧乏(幾天前一個孩子在白教堂[東倫敦一個地區]被燒傷，因為他母親不得不賣掉火爐防火板去買麵包)；我們街道上下流的污穢和不道德的行為；越來越多的人不守主日；以及壓倒性的飲酒法案——這些事情不能不受到懲罰。難道我們可以真的不怕神很快就要起來反對我們嗎？但願我們運用我們作為公民的影響力，作為聖徒的禱告，來避免那一旦到來就無法恢復的結局。

讀者啊，這是你的情況嗎？你是否有一個內在的傷痛，沒有藥物能夠緩解？你是否有一個創傷，如此重大以至沒有醫術能夠治癒？你要將這創傷帶到永生的救主面前。基督在肉身的時候，每一個祂所行的神蹟，仍然有一個屬靈的對應。

[註] 喇亞爾得Austen Henry Layard, 1817-1894, 英國旅行者，考古學家，也是一位爵士。以發現並挖掘尼尼微城聞名。