

“Let Freedom Ring!”

Nahum 1:15

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Introduction: Before addressing our text here in Nahum, consider this hymn story. I’ve entitled the message: “Let Freedom Ring!” We will not only examine our text here in Nahum, but we will consider 2 other verses with the same theme: Isaiah 52:7 & Romans 10:15. The common denominator in these 3 verses is the theme of “freedom.” Two of them deal with physical freedom while the third deals with spiritual freedom. As a nation, we celebrate our declaration of freedom from Great Britain with another observation of July 4th. This will be the 246th anniversary of our nation’s declaration of independence. Let us consider 3 other declarations of freedom, the last being the greatest of all. Note with me first of all our text in Nahum 1:15.

I. Nahum 1:15 > the message of **recompense** – freedom from Assyria’s **cruelty**

“Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.”

A. There is the **proclamation** of peace:

1. Note the feet that bring *“the good tidings (good news).”*
2. Note the lips that publish *“peace (“shalom”).”*

B. There is the **participation** in feasts:

1. *“Solemn feasts”* – to celebrate past deliverances by God & now deliverance from Assyria.
2. *“Perform thy vows”* – to praise God for answered prayer & fulfill vows made.

C. There is the **prediction** of defeat:

1. *“The wicked shall no more pass through thee”* - *“Belial”* meaning “the worthless one.”
2. *“He is utterly cut off”* – Assyria’s defeat is so certain that it is spoken of in the past tense (though it will not take place until 612 B.C.).

Summary: This is the prophetic picture of a messenger hurriedly making his way to Jerusalem with the news, “Nineveh is fallen, Nineveh is fallen.” The Jews from within Judea & elsewhere could now resume the observance of their festivals without fear of outside enemies.

II. Isaiah 52:7 > the message of **restoration** – freedom from Babylon’s **captivity**

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth.”

A. There is the **publication** of peace:

1. Note the *“beautiful feet”* that bring *“the good tidings (good news).”*
2. Note the blessed lips that publish *“peace (shalom).”*

Summary: This speaks of the good news of the exiles returning from Babylonian captivity.

B. There is the **proclamation** of power:

1. *“Thy God reigneth”* – the establishment of God’s unrivaled reign.
2. Compare Revelation 19:6, *“...Alleluia, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”*

III. Romans 10:15 > the message of **reconciliation** – freedom from sin’s captivity

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, & bring glad tidings of good things!”

A. Beautiful “toes” (feet)

1. In **appearance**:

"Those that preach the gospel of peace should see to it that their feet (their life & conversation) be beautiful: the holiness of ministers' lives is the beauty of their feet" (Matthew Henry).

2. In **approach**:

" 'How beautiful are the feet', that is, how welcome are they!... Those that welcome the message cannot but love the messenger" (Matthew Henry).

Illustration: Francis de L. Booth Tucker, missionary to India.

3. In **application**:

a. We are to go forth with our feet – It should not be surprising if the unsaved do not come to us – we are to go to them (however, it is surprising if the Christian doesn’t want to go to church).

b. "God didn't save us to sit down & sit, but to get up and 'git'." (Not good English, but good evangelism).

Ask: **“Where do your feet take you?”**

B. Blessed tidings [More welcome than news of returning exiles or defeated Assyria]

1. **Gospel** of peace

a. Man is at enmity with God – Romans 8:7-8.

b. Man needs to be reconciled to God – Romans 5:8-11.

2. **Glad tidings** of good things

a. "From the view-point of heaven there is nothing on the earth more lovely than the bearing of the name of Jesus Christ into the needing world, when the bearer is one 'who loves and knows' " (Moule).

b. “The things of the Gospel are good things indeed, the best things; tidings concerning them are the most joyful tidings, the best news that ever came from heaven to earth” (Henry).

Illustrate: **“Good News, Good News” Summary**: Four reasons why the church must send out missionaries: (1) The *command* from above (Mk. 16:15; (2) The *cry* from beneath (Lk. 16:27); (3) The *call* from without (Acts 16:9); & (4) The *constraint* from within (II Cor. 5:14). [from Dr. E. Meyers Harrison, missionary & professor of missions]

Conclusion: As we celebrate again tomorrow our declaration of independence, might we today be reminded of an even greater declaration of freedom in Romans 10:15. It is foreshadowed in Nahum 1:15 & Isaiah 52:7, with the declaration of freedom from Assyria’s cruelty & Babylon’s captivity. The greatest freedom is from the captivity to sin, made possible by the message of reconciliation. The preaching of the Gospel involves “beautiful toes” & “blessed tidings.” This Gospel message brings peace with God through the cross of His Son, Jesus Christ. Have you responded personally to that message? Are you today at peace with God through the blood of Christ? If not, why not get that settled this morning. Then you can rejoice not only in a celebration of our nation’s freedom, but in your own freedom in Christ. He Himself says, *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* (John 8:36).

If you are saved, are you actively involved in spreading the Good News? Do you have “beautiful feet”?