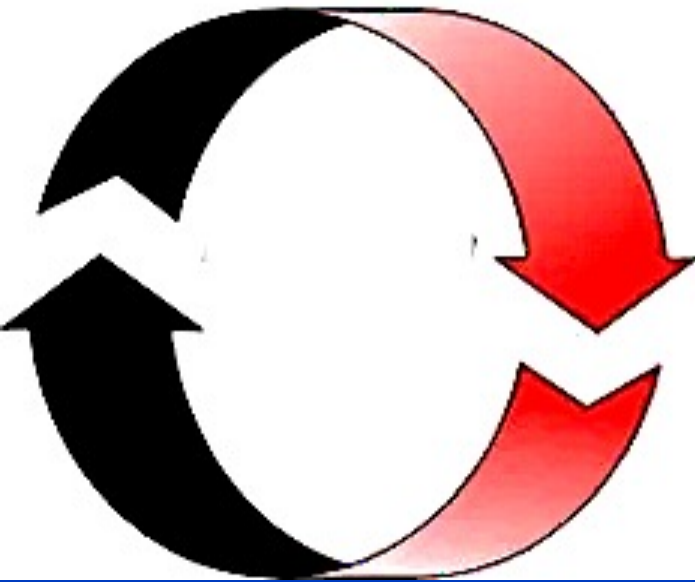


Cyclical View of History



Linear View of History



- Greek philosophy vs. Hebrew philosophy of history
- Liberal = Greek = linear
- Conservative = Hebrew = cycles and patterns
- Liberal view: downplays prophecy
- Conservative view: prophecy valuable, important
- Our choice of view will determine how we interpret the Bible

"THERE IS NOTHING
NEW UNDER THE SUN.
IT HAS ALL BEEN DONE

BEFORE!"

Ecclesiastes

- Nahum 3:8
"Are you better than No-Amon?"
- Assyria should look to the past to see what happens when a nation depends solely on their military might
- Their hostility towards YHWH and Israel only has one outcome
- History matters, and we will all be caught up in it
- Ecclesiastes 1:9



ALLIES & ENEMIES



- Vss. 8 – 10 “How the mighty have fallen”
- Vss. 11 – 13 “Now the mighty have become helpless”
- Nahum 3:9 Ethiopia, Egypt, Put and Luvim were allies of No-Amon
- But, when attacked, No-Amon got no support from her allies
- Alliances are temporary marriages of convenience

BRUTALITY AND CRUELNESS

- Nahum 3:10
- The loss of children for Westerners is barbaric
- But, in ancient times, it was a horror that the family bloodline might end
- Nineveh did this to No-Amon, now it is being done to them by God
- Europe's retributions on the German people after WWI, caused WWII





DRUNKENNESS

- Nahum 3:11 ***“You too (Nineveh) will be drunk...”***
- ***Gam’at*** = “as she, also you”
- ***Tis(h)kari*** = “May you become drunk” ... it is a command, not a wish
- The idea is of a person being in a stupor, near to passing out
- Diodorus Siculus say Nineveh was having a drunken orgy when Babylon attacked

BIKKURIM



- “Thou art hidden” = vanishing away
- Assyria had no will or ability to defeat the Babylonians
- The tables have been turned on Assyria
- Isaiah 28:4
- ***Bikkurim*** technically means “early figs”
- Early figs easier/faster to harvest than later figs
- Early figs appear in the Spring, the main harvest is in the summer

What does it mean?

Mark 11:11 - 23



- A connection between Yeshua arising on Bikkurim (First Fruits) and this enigmatic story in Mark?
- Book of Matthew has a much shorter version
- Mark's translation says it wasn't yet fig season, so why would Yeshua curse a tree when it wasn't time to produce the figs?
- That fact is, it WAS the season for "early figs" (Bikkurim), but the tree was bare except for leaves

ILLUSIONS



- History proves that the unsinkable, impenetrable, undefeatable are just words
- Nahum 3:13
- Men were physically stronger than women, so women were vulnerable
- Women considered as spoils of war
- *Patoah niptahu* = “they are wide-open”
- Refers to women & gates

WHAT IS THE WRATH OF GOD?

- ***Ammek*** = your troops or your people?
- Nahum's concern was with the plight of all of Nineveh's people
- Nahum speaks of the earthly expression of God's wrath
- Church is usually embarrassed about God's wrath
- Pagan systems have angry, petty, homicidal gods
- Biblical God is beyond human emotions

When good men
do nothing, evil
prevails....



- God's anger and His wrath are not irrational
- Patience and inaction in the face of unremitting evil is not a virtue
- Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 8 A time for everything
- God is in active intimate contact with His creation
- God's wrath is His exercise to pursue divine justice



GOD'S LOVING

WRATH

- God's justice and wrath are always in relation to His covenants
- The Father's concern is for ALL of His creation
- Goodness, love, and justice are measures of God's anger
- When His divine justice is transgressed, then His wrath is kindled!