

## **PREPARED FOR 2022**

### **Spiritual Emphasis Week**

**NAHUM 2:1 – He who destroys has come up before your face. Guard the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks! Fortify your power mightily.**

*Another version says:*

**Your enemy is coming to crush you. Man the ramparts! Watch the roads! Prepare your defenses! Call out your forces!- Nahum 2:1**

Thanks be to God that He has allowed us to reach the end of 2021, a year to which we can give many labels: difficult, hard, forgotten, terrible, etc.

This is why, with everything we have experienced this year, we should prepare to start a new year and be ready to face whatever may come **WITH CERTAINTY, FAITH, HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND COURAGE.**

In the scripture above we see the words that God gave, through the prophet Nahum, to the people of Nineveh, who would be attacked shortly after by the Babylonian Empire. Babylon was a powerful and mortal enemy, and those words that we read in the scripture can also be applied in our own lives since we are about to start a new year and we are still facing an enemy that can be mortal.

In 2022, it is necessary to know that a **destroyer is advancing against us! Stand guard the fortress! Watch the road! Prepare your defenses! Gather all your strength! - Nahum 2:1**

We will be dedicating this week of January 3 – 7 to meditate on each of these words, to be prepared and to be able to face 2022 and be victorious with the help of our God.

**Remember that this week we will have Prayer Service at church from Monday-Thursdays, 7pm-8pm and we will be closing our week with a Night of Prayer on Friday at 8:30pm.**

## DAY 1 – Monday, January 3

**TO BE PREPARED WE MUST KNOW WITH CERTAINTY THAT AN ENEMY IS COMING AGAINST US.**

**Nahum 2:1A - *He who destroys has come up before your face...***

On this first day of our week of emphasis on prayer we must reflect on the profound meaning of the scripture that we have taken as a central scripture for our message of preparation for this new year. This must be a year of more prayer and consecration because of the fact that we face an enemy that is still mortal. The Bible says, "***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***" - **1 Peter 5:8**. In this new year we should take the posture of the watchman of the book of Nahum when it is said, "***He who destroys has come up before you...***," and we should watch and pray.

Nahum 2:1 expresses this in such a dramatic way, it's as if the watchman were on the lookout and has seen the armies of the Babylonians coming to destroy the city of Nineveh! For us, this new year may be a year of confronting the enemy on several fronts, therefore, we must intensify our emphasis on seeking more of the Lord, for there is the certainty that an enemy is advancing against us. This enemy is the destroyer of our communion with God, of our marriage, the destroyer of our children, of our church, etc.

In this year new year let us use well the weapons of our faith: Prayer and authority of the Word of God, which is the Sword of the Spirit!

***"...For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled. - 2 Corinthians 10:4-6***

## **DAY 2 – Tuesday, January 4**

**TO BE PREPARED WE NEED TO KEEP THE FORTRESS.**

**Nahum 2:1B – *He who destroys has come up before your face. Guard the fort...***

Fortresses were designed to be used as defenses against enemies, and for that reason fortresses were the first thing an enemy would attack and try to destroy. It was known that when fortresses fell the defenses were weakened. **Jeremiah 48:41 - *the city has been captured and the strongholds have been seized, so the hearts of the warriors of Moab on that day will be like the heart of a woman in labor.***

***THIS NEW YEAR IS NOT ONLY ABOUT GOING OUT TO FIGHT. IT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT GOING OUT TO WAR WILDLY. WARS ARE NOT WON ONLY BY THOSE WHO HAVE BETTER WEAPONS, BUT THEY ARE WON BY THOSE WHO USE BETTER BATTLE STRATEGY WITH WHAT THEY HAVE.***

In this new year we cannot neglect our strengths, we cannot neglect our spiritual defenses. What are those strengths that we cannot neglect? Prayer, our devotional time with the Lord, our daily Bible reading, praise and worship, and faithfully / constantly gathering with, and attending church.

## DAY 3 – Wednesday, January 5

**TO BE PREPARED WE MUST WATCH THEWAY.**

**Nahum 2:1B – “He who destroys has come up before your face. Guard the fort! Watch the road!”**

Many cities in biblical times had great walls, and on those walls, there were watchtowers that were for guarding the road. The guards were there to ensure that enemies did not approach.

If we apply this scripture to our lives in this new year, we must watch our way. We cannot walk far from the Lord. If we are going to have to walk in the valley of the shadow of death, we have to be sure that our God goes with us. **Psalm 23:4 - *Even though I walk in a valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you will be with me; Your rod and your staff will breathe me in.***

We also have to be vigilant and be watchmen for our family, because if we want our sons and daughters and other family members to walk under the care and protection of our God, we have to make sure that they walk in the way of the Lord.

We must also watch the path we walk on so as not to allow the enemy to send into our lives and the lives of our family fatalistic people, with a negative view of life, who can make us doubt the power, love, and mercy of the Lord.

## DAY 4 – Thursday, January 6

**TO BE PREPARED WE MUST STRENGTHEN OUR FLANKS AND GIRD OUR LOINS.  
Nahum 2:1C - *He who destroys has come up before your face. Guard the fort!  
Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks!***

Girding our loins means having an attitude of courage and not of fear for this new year. It means to be prepared to face whatever may come, being confident in our God.

Recently we've seen many people on television and even in our own families who, with an attitude of fear and of cowardice, look for fortune tellers, supposed prophets, and seers to know what the new year can bring to their lives. They want to know what they're going to face by studying the horoscope and the signs of the zodiac.

Girding our loins means that although we do not know what we are going to face this year, or what we will experience, we can say with faith: **COME WHATEVER MAY COME, I WILL NOT FEAR BECAUSE GOD IS WITH ME.** *Jeremiah 15:20 - And I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall; and they will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you," says the Lord.*

We must have courage in this new year! We must remember that our God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-control. **(2 Timothy 1:7)**

## **DAY 5 – Friday, January 7**

**TO BE PREPARED WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR POWER.**

**Nahum 2:1D - *He who destroys has come up before your face. Guard the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks! Fortify your power mightily.***

2021 was a difficult year to overcome. Surely, we have all, at some point, felt burdened, tired, and without the strength to continue.

That is why for 2022 we must strengthen our power. The word **REINFORCE** means to add new force or strength to something.

As we begin this new year, we need to reinforce our strength through the power and strength of the Lord. He will give us new strength to face this new year.

**Isaiah 40:29-31 - *He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.***

What do we need in order to be strengthened by our God? What do we need for our lives to be reinforced by the Lord? We need to recognize our weaknesses as well as our need for God every day. **2 Corinthians 12:10 - *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.***

**CONCLUDING NOTE:** Let us prepare ourselves for this new year by taking the hand of the Lord and holding on. Let us regard His word, but above all, let us put it into practice, so that we may have a year of victory and abundant life, even in a time of crisis and illness.