

THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19

INTRODUCTION

Just before the time when the prophets *JEREMIAH* and *ZEPHANIAH* were pronouncing judgment against *JUDAH*, another prophet, *NAHUM*, was directing his attention at one of her enemies—namely *ASSYRIA* whose capital was *NINEVEH*.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROPHET NAHUM!

Nothing is known of this Prophet of the *LORD* outside of what we find in the opening of his book.

A. The Name NAHUM Means "Consolation" Or "Comfort."

His name was very appropriate with his ministry because **the message of his prophecy was intended to comfort the oppressed and afflicted people of JUDAH.**

B. NAHUM Is Called An Elkohshite. (1:1)

Meaning that he was born in *ELKOSH*, which is believed by some to have been a small village of *JUDAH* located in *GALILEE*.

Some think that it is the same as *CAPERNAUM* (which means "*village of NAHUM*").

Still others believe it was in southern *JUDAH*, but no conclusive evidence exists of that.

C. NAHUM'S Prophecies Came Between The Times Of ISALIAH And ZEPHANIAH.

D. His Book Is Believed To Be Dated Between 663 And 612 B.C. (More Narrowly Between 663 And 654 B.C.)

The fall of *NO* or *THEBES* is mentioned in *3:8* and that occurred in 663 B.C. and the predicted fall of *NINEVEH* took place in 612 B.C. *THEBES* was restored in 654, so this prophecy was believed to have been before that time.

1. The northern kingdom of *ISRAEL* was already in *ASSYRIAN* captivity at the time this was written.

THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19

2. *ASSYRIA* itself was still a the most powerful nation on earth, although it was in a state of decline.

They were very proud in their self-sufficiency and their military might!

They were known for plundering, oppressing, and slaughtering their victims without mercy!

That is why *NINEVEH* is called a "*bloody city*" (*3:1*).

3. The theme of his message is simple, "*The Fall Of NINEVEH*"
 - a) This makes *NAHUM'S* work a complement to that of *JONAH*.

NINEVEH had previously repented at the preaching of *JONAH* about 150 years earlier.

However, *NINEVEH* had turned back to their evil ways.

ISRAEL had been conquered by *ASSYRIA* and carried into captivity.

JUDAH was now also suffering as she was being forced to pay tribute as insurance against invasions by *ASSYRIA*.

- b) This time no mercy would be shown to *NINEVEH* and *GOD'S* judgment would be final.

By final I mean that she would be totally destroyed.

The *ASSYRIANS* would be judged for their arrogance, idolatry, murder, lies, treachery and their oppression.

**THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19**

THE BOOK OF NAHUM is easily divided into three sections which conveniently coincide with the three chapters!

I. NINEVEH'S DOOM IS DECLARED! (NAHUM 1)

A. We See The Character And Power Of The LORD Declared!

1. We See The LORD'S Vengeance, Even Though HE Is Slow To Anger! (1:1-3a)

Sometimes people avoid **GOD** because they see evildoers in the world and hypocrites in the Church and they blame **GOD** for not doing anything about it!

They don't realize that because **GOD** slow to anger, **HE** gives **HIS** true followers time to share **HIS** love and truth with evildoers.

But judgment will come! **GOD** is longsuffering, but **HE** will not allow sin to go unchecked forever!

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13—“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. 12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: 13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.”

When people wonder why GOD doesn't punish evil immediately, we need to remind them that if HE did, none of us would be here!

Lamentations 3:21-23—“21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. 22 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

**THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19**

2. We See The Fierceness Of The LORD's Anger Described. (1:3b-6)

No person on earth can safely defy **GOD**, the One Who controls the whole universe!

3. We Also See The Goodness Of The LORD, As A Stronghold To The Faithful! (1:7)

4. We See That The LORD Is A Pursuer Of His Enemies! (1:8)

To those who refuse to believe, **GOD'S** punishment is like an angry fire or flood. To those who love **HIM**, **HE** is a stronghold in the day of trouble.

The relationship we have with the **LORD** is up to us!

We See The Character And Power Of The LORD Declared...

B. We See The Coming Complete Overthrow Of NINEVEH Declared!

1. She will not afflict again, despite her plotting against the LORD! (1:9-11)

The “wicked counsellor” who plots against the **LORD** could have been **ASHURBANIPAL** (669-627 B.C.) who was king of **ASSYRIA** during much of **NAHUM'S** life and the one who brought **ASSYRIA** to the height of its power.

Or it could have been **SENNACHERIB** (705 - 681 B.C.) who openly defied **GOD**. (*2 Kings 18:13-35*)

Or it could have been referring to the entire evil monarchy of **ASSYRIA**.

2. JUDAH would be delivered from NINEVEH'S affliction! (1:12-13)

**THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19**

The good news for **JUDAH** who had been terrorized by **ASSYRIA** was that its conquerors and tormentors would be destroyed and would never rise to torment it again.

NINEVEH was so completely wiped out that its ruins were not identified until the year 1845.

3. ***NINEVEH'S* destruction had been commanded by the *LORD*. (1:14)**
4. **There would be good tidings in *JUDAH*—she would once again be able to keep her feasts. (1:15)**

NINEVEH'S DOOM IS DECLARED...

II. *NINEVEH'S DOOM IS DESCRIBED! (NAHUM 2)*

Chapter 2 predicts the events of 612 B.C. when the combined armies of the **BABYLONIANS** and the **MEDES** sacked **NINEVEH**, which was thought to be impregnable.

A. The Siege And Capture Of The City.

1. Furious preparation for the battle is described! (2:1-4)
2. Resistance was futile, captivity had been decreed! (2:5-7) Note *verse 6: "The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved"*

The **BABYLONIAN** records tell that **NINEVEH** fell because the flooding rivers made breaches in the city's defenses.

HUZAB is believed to be a reference to the queen of **NINEVEH**.

B. The Utter Sack Of the City.

1. Her inhabitants would flee, the city would be plundered! (2:8-10)

**THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19**

2. Her destruction would be complete! (2:11-13) **NINEVEH**, which was described as a dwelling of devouring lions, will be no more.

III. *NINEVEH'S DOOM IS DESERVED! (NAHUM 3)*

A. It Is Deserved Because Of Her Sins!

1. **Her Woe Would Be Due To Her Sins! (3:1-4)** **NINEVAH** used her beauty, prestige, and power to seduce other nations.

Like a prostitute, she enticed them into false friendships. Then when the other nations relaxed, thinking **ASSYRIA** was a friend, she would destroy and plunder them.

Though she was beautiful and impressive on the outside, she was vicious and deceitful on the inside!

2. **The *LORD* Would Uncover Her Shame And Make Her A Spectacle. (3:5-7)**

B. *NINEVEH* Was No Better Than The City Of *NO*. (3:8-10)

This is speaking of the city **NO-AMON** also known as **THEBES** in **EGYPT**.

The city of **NO**, despite her strength, was carried away into captivity.

It would be the same with **NINEVEH!** (3:11)

C. *NINEVEH'S* Strength And Wealth Could Not Save Her!

1. **Her Strongholds Would Fail! (3:12-13)**
2. **All Her Efforts, Her Wealth, And Her Army, Would Be Futile! (3:14-17)**

**THE BOOK OF NAHUM
THE FALL OF NINEVEH!
NAHUM 1:1–3:19**

- D. NINEVEH Would Come To An Utter End!**
- 1. Her Leaders Would Be Killed And Her People Scattered! (3:18-19a)**

 - 2. Those Who Heard Of Her Fall Would Rejoice! (3:19b)**

CONCLUSION

- 1. The Message Of NAHUM For The People Of God Was One Of Consolation!**
 - a. Those who afflict GOD'S people will be judged! (1:2-3)**
Luke 18:7-8–“And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

 - b. GOD is a stronghold in time of trouble! (1:7)**
Psalms 27:5–“For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.”

Are you trusting in **GOD** as your Stronghold?

- 2. The Message Of NAHUM For Those Who Do Evil Is One Of Warning!**
 - a. Those who do evil can't rely on what mercy was shown to their ancestors (e.g. As in the days of JONAH).**
They can't trust in what their parents or ancestors may have done to escape the judgment of **GOD**!

 - b. The LORD may be merciful and slow to anger, but the day of judgment does finally come!**