

NAHUM Introduction & Chapter 1

Teacher: John M. Brown, Flatwoods church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class

AUTHOR: Nahum (whose name means "consolation" or "comfort").

1. He is from Elkosh (which was possibly Capernaum), but not much is known of his background
2. He was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah.

DATE: 663-612 BC

MESSAGE: Doom! Nineveh will be overthrown!

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

1. Some 100 years previously, the Ninevites (Assyrians) had repented at the preaching of Jonah, and they city had been spared.
2. But obviously the people did not pass on their knowledge of the one true God to their successive generations, and the cruel heathen and idolatrous practices had returned.
3. The Assyrians destroyed Samaria (the northern kingdom of Israel) in 722 BC and nearly captured Jerusalem in 701 BC.
4. Now, the announcement is being made that God's judgment must be poured out upon such a wicked people (3:1,4).
5. The Medes and Scythians, fierce nomadic people from the northeast, aided by the Babylonians, attacked Assyria, and Nineveh fell in 612 BC.

SHORT OUTLINE:

Chapter One: NINEVEH'S DOOM DECLARED

Chapter Two: NINEVEH'S DOOM DESCRIBED

Chapter Three: NINEVEH'S DOOM DESERVED

CHAPTER ONE

I. AUTHOR, v. 1

II. GOD'S ATTRIBUTES, vv. 2-8

- A. Note the attributes of God mentioned in this section: *jealousy, anger, vengeance, patience, powerful, good; a strong hold for those who trust in Him.*
- B. We see the importance of God being on our side and not against us!

III. GOD'S ANGER, vv. 9-15

- A. The Destruction of Assyria is foretold (see also Isaiah 10:24-27).
- B. God addresses Judah: her yoke will be broken, v. 13
- C. God addresses Nineveh: she will be destroyed, vv. 14-15

NAHUM Chapters 2 - 3

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I. NINEVEH'S JUDGMENT PREDICTED & DESCRIBED, chapter 2

A. To Nineveh: the Babylonians and Medes will come against Assyria, vv. 1-2.

B. The judgment described, vv. 3-10

1. Invaders are coming; there will be confusion in Nineveh.
2. The king of Nineveh will try to summon a defense, but all efforts are futile.
3. Nineveh shall be brought to an end; her enemies shall plunder, and there shall be despair.

C. The judgment vindicated, vv. 11-13

1. The judgment of Nineveh is complete (so complete, in fact, that its location for centuries will be unknown).
2. Nineveh had been plunderer -now will be plundered!

II. NINEVEH'S JUDGMENT IS CERTAIN, chapter 3

A. Judgment is certain, vv. 1-10

1. A miserable and sorrowful state is to befall the city.
2. The city will be filled with corpses.
3. Spiritual & moral harlotry will describe the city.
4. There will be none to mourn this condition.

B. Judgment is inevitable, vv. 11-19

1. Nineveh's fortress shall fall.
2. The king of Nineveh and his family shall perish in fire.
3. The wound cannot, and will not, be repaired!

SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS:

1. *There is a limit to God's patience; and God still rules the world,*
2. *Nations built on pride, cruelty, & force cannot expect to have friends in the day of fall.*
3. *God hates brutality, violence, and wrong, and when He lifts His finger in judgment, even the mightiest nations must fall.*