

The Book of NAHUM

Name means: “Consolation” or “Comforter ”

Date: 622-612 BC

Nahum is about God judging a nation, the Assyrian Empire

722 BC The fall of Israel to Assyria 701 BC Sennacherib Crisis 2 Kings 19:35 Isaiah 37

In Jonah’s day, the Assyrians were wicked and vicious. Cities would commit suicide rather than be invaded. Buried alive, skinned alive, impaled on poles, men and children killed and women either used or sold as sex slaves. God told Jonah to go Northeast to and preach to Nineveh. Jonah went Southwest to Joppa to run from God. Jonah initially didn’t want God to save Nineveh. Jonah learns about the love of God.

Jonah had preached there 100-150 years earlier and they had repented. But the revival and worn off and they had returned to their old ways, and in time, the paganism returned.

612 BC Assyria falls to Babylon

605 BC Battle of Carchemish Assyria and Egypt defeated by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

Key Verse: Nahum 2:13 “Behold, I am against you”, says the Lord.

Theme: God’s Judgement on Nineveh, capitol of the Assyrian Empire

Nineveh is 250 miles North of Babylon. Babylon is 30 miles South west of Bagdad, Iraq.

Jonah reveals the love of God. Nahum reveals the judgement of God.

It reveals the other side of the attributes of God.

God is holy, but He is the Righteous Judge.

100-150 years after the revival under Jonah, God speaks.

OVERVIEW OF NAHUM

Chapter 1 God’s Wrath on His Enemies

1:1 The message of judgement on Nineveh, (The greatest city in the world at that time.) Nahum is from Elkosh. From “Capernaum,”? the city of Nahum? Born in North Israel around the Galilee then moved South to Judah. Maybe before the fall of Israel in 722

1:2 Jealous. Exclusive devotion. See Exodus 20:3-6

1:3 Slow to anger and great in power.

Because judgement hasn’t come, doesn’t mean it won’t come.

God judges because He is just, not because He is hateful, vengeful or vindictive.

Because He is Just, He will deal with sin.

1:4-5 The mountains quake and crumble before Him.

1:6 Who can endure the fierceness of His anger?

- 1:7 The Lord is good! A stronghold in the day of trouble. He knows who is His. Psalm 107:1-2
- 1:14 Your name will be perpetuated no longer. I will dig your grave, for you are vile. Nineveh was buried. By the 2nd century no one knew where Nineveh was. In 1849-51, British Archaeologist A.H. Layard uncovered the 71-room palace of Sennacherib and a library of 22,000 clay tablets. East of the Tigris River near modern-day Mosel , Iraq. From 2014 – 2017 it was occupied by Islamic State of Iraq and Levant. ISIL bulldozed and destroyed much of the antiquities.
- 1:15 Judah, keep your vows and feasts. The wicked one is cut off and won't bother you.

The word of comfort is to the people of God, not to the Assyrians.

Chapter 2 Destruction of Nineveh (See Isaiah 10 & Ezekiel 31)

- 2:1 Get ready for war. Get ready for defeat.
- 2:9 Looting the richest city in the world.
- 2:13 Behold, I am against you. The voice of your messengers will be heard no more. No one will ever hear from the Assyrians again.

Chapter 3 The Woe of Nineveh

- 3:1 Woe to the bloody city!
- 3:5 Behold! I am against you, says the Lord of Hosts
- 3:8 You are no better than Thebes, Luxor, Egypt, Nile River- who you destroyed 663 BC.
- 3:13 Your fierce army acts like women. Your gates are open for your enemies.
- 3:17 Your commanders are like locusts, your generals are like grasshoppers. Your army is weak and useless.
- 3:19 THE FINAL WORD: Your injury has no healing. Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you will clap their hands.

God judged the nation of Assyria because they crossed the line. I don't know where that line is. God is loving and patient. The message of Nahum is simple. God judges nations when they walk away from Him.

America was a godly nation, but has hit a slippery slope. Seventy years ago in America, a generation of people added "Under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance. They added "In God We Trust" to our money as our national motto. God cannot be happy with where our country is today.