

NAHUM – CHAPTERS 1-3 – God’s Wrath on His Enemies; The Destruction of Nineveh; The Woe of Nineveh!

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Chapter one presents God and the great source of strength and sustaining power of His people. The second and third chapters are given over to a most vivid portrayal of the desolation of Nineveh. Because the book is so largely a threatening prophecy of judgment, it is entitled a “burden”.

Nah 1:1 The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

God’s Wrath on His Enemies – vs. 2-15

Nah 1:2 God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;

Nah 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

Nah 1:4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts.

Nah 1:5 The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

Nah 1:6 Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

Nah 1:7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

Nah 1:8 But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.

Nah 1:9 What do you conspire against the LORD? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.

Nah 1:10 For while tangled like thorns, And while drunken like drunkards, They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.

Nah 1:11 From you comes forth one Who plots evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.

Nah 1:12 Thus says the LORD: "Though they are safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more;

v. 1 In the very first verse, **Nahum tells you what the prophecy is all about. It is the burden of Nineveh.** *burden* means "judgment," as it is also used in the prophecy of Isaiah. Earlier, Jonah had brought a message to Nineveh which revealed the *love* of God, and now the message of the Book of Nahum reveals the *justice* of God—the two go together. Although God will judge a nation, He is still love, and He still loves—you cannot escape that.

v. 2 Jealous - For His own glory. avenges - As supreme governor, who by office is bound to right the oppressed, and to punish the oppressor.

v. 3 Has His way - The methods of His providence. The whirlwind - Which bears before it all things that stand in its way. The dust of his feet - Though he be surrounded with darkness, yet as an army afar off is discovered by the dust that their feet raise, so will God appear with great power marching against His enemies.

v. 4 The flower - Whatever flourished thereon; the blossoms, and flowers which were to be the glory of it.

v. 5 He is the Creator, and He's also the Preserver of this universe—He's the One who holds it together. "The mountains quake before Him, and the earth heaves" refers to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.

v. 6 Who can stand? This question was directed to the people of Nineveh who had rejected the mercy of this all-powerful God. Do *you* have the answer to that question? I'd like to ask that of you if you are unsaved.

v. 7 Knows those who trust in Him - He approves, owns, and preserves them. Now he turns from the enemies of God, who are going to experience the judgment of God, to the people of God. To them, his words are words of comfort. "The Lord is good."

v. 8 It's interesting that it was **with an overwhelming flood that the city of Nineveh fell. It was as the result of this flood, that, that wiped out the defenses, took down some of these great walls of Nineveh, that caused the fall.** So he is here prophesying that with an overrunning flood

v. 9 Against the Lord - What you imagine or design against his people, ye design against him? Make an utter end - He will bring you to utter desolation. So complete that it was thought that the city did not exist!

v. 10 like thorns - They shall be like thorns easily burnt, and like thorns folded together which burn together, and help to destroy each other. As drunkards - As men drunken, and unable to help themselves, so the Assyrians drunk with pleasure and pride, shall be surprised, and easily overthrown.

v. 11 Come - Sennacherib, or Rabshekah. Thee - From Nineveh. Against the Lord - Against the people of the Lord, **2 Kings 18:28-35; 2Ch 32:10-18**

v. 12 They - The Assyrians. Quiet - Be secure, and fear no dangers. Yet thus - Irresistible, suddenly, and universally. He - The angel of the Lord, killing 185,000 in one night. you - O Israel, I will no more use that rod.

Nahum the Elkoshite: We don't know anything else about Nahum or the city of Elkosh. The name Nahum is an abbreviated form of the name *Nehemiah*, which means "Comfort of Yahweh."

It is likely that Nahum was written during the *height* of Nineveh's power. "It was concerned with Nineveh, and was delivered almost certainly when she was at the height of her power"

The message of Nahum deals solely with Nineveh and her destruction. Jonah prophesied about a century and a half before Nahum. The prophecy before us is the sequel to Jonah's book. Having been warned in Jonah's day and having repented only temporarily, in that generation, Nineveh is now to suffer final and complete destruction. Chronicles outside the Bible relate that this visitation took place in **612 B.C.** by the hand of the Medes and Babylonians.

Nahum is a thrilling book to study because it reveals the other side of the attributes of God. God is love, but God is also holy and righteous and good. And God still moves in the lives of nations; therefore, this book speaks right into where we are today!!

THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD!

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land/The battle belongs to the Lord/No weapon that's fashioned against us shall stand/ The battle belongs to the Lord

We sing glory and honor/Power and strength to the Lord/(repeat)

The power of darkness comes in like a flood/The battle belongs to the Lord/He's raised up a standard, the power of His blood/The battle belongs to the Lord

When your enemy presses in hard do not fear/The battle belongs to the Lord/Take courage my friend, your redemption is near/The battle belongs to the Lord

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Nah 1:13 For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart."
Nah 1:14 The LORD has given a command concerning you: "Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile."
Nah 1:15 Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings, Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

The Destruction of Nineveh – vs. 1-13

Nah 2:1 He who scatters has come up before your face. Man the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks! Fortify your power mightily.
Nah 2:2 For the LORD will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.
Nah 2:3 The shields of his mighty men are made red, The valiant men are in scarlet. The chariots come with flaming torches In the day of his preparation, And the spears are brandished.
Nah 2:4 The chariots rage in the streets, They jostle one another in the broad roads; They seem like torches, They run like lightning.
Nah 2:5 He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their walk; They make haste to her walls, And the defense is prepared.
Nah 2:6 The gates of the rivers are opened, And the palace is dissolved.
Nah 2:7 It is decreed: She shall be led away captive, She shall be brought up; And her maidservants shall lead her as with the voice of doves, Beating their breasts.
Nah 2:8 Though Nineveh of old was like a pool of water, Now they flee away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry; But no one turns back

v. 13 This seemed impossible in the day when Nahum wrote it because the nation of Assyria was to continue for a long time yet. But God said at that time, "I am going to break off the yoke of this nation."
v. 14 you- Probably Sennacherib, and the whole kingdom of Assyria. Be perpetuated no longer - None shall bear thy name, and title; but your kingdom shall be swallowed up.
v. 15 Keep - Be careful to serve God. Your vows - Made in your distress. The wicked - That wicked oppressor, Sennacherib. **Is. 52:7; Romans 10:15**
v. Chap. 2:1 He - The Medes or Chaldeans, that dash Nineveh in pieces. The fort - The forts. Strengthen your flanks - Strengthen thyself.
v. 2 For - Israel and Jacob were more to God, yet he punished them; much more will he punish Nineveh. Turned - Laid low. The excellence - The wealth, the valiant men, all that Jacob gloried in. Jacob - The two tribes. Israel - The ten tribes. Emptied them - Quite exhausted them. Their vine - branches - Destroyed all the fruit of the land.
v. 3 The shields - One part for the whole of the armor, and furniture. Mighty men - Medes or Chaldeans. Red - With the blood of the slain. Torches - Torches were always carried in them. In the day - When he shall muster his armies. Shaken - By axes cutting them down for the war.
v. 4 In the streets - Of Nineveh, when taken. Jostle - By reason of their multitude and fury. In the broad roads - Where is most room, and yet scarce enough for them to move. Like torches - What with sparkling fire caused by their horses and chariots, what with the glittering of the polished irons about them, and what with the light of flaming torches carried in them. Like the lightnings - Both for speed, irresistibility and terror. This is exactly what happened in the fall of Nineveh.
v. 5 He - The king of Babylon. His worthies - Approved officers and commanders. Stumble - Show such forwardness, that they shall not stand to pick their way. They - The Assyrians to defend, the Chaldeans to assault the walls of Nineveh.
v. 6 The gates - Of the city toward the river. The rivers - Of the Tigris, upon which Nineveh stood. Dissolved - While the Chaldeans besieged Nineveh, a mighty deluge overthrew the walls of Nineveh, by the space of twenty furlongs, through which breach the besiegers made their entrance.
v. 7 She - The queen. The voice of doves - Sighing out their complaints. Upon their breasts - Instead of musical instruments, on which they were used to play, now they only strike their breasts.
v. 8 Like a pool - The city was surrounded by these canals. It was sort of like the city of Venice. The streets, many of them were canals. Yet - Yet these multitudes shall flee discomfited and terrified. They - The chieftains, and most valiant among the Ninevites.

V. 3 *The Lord is slow to anger (1:3)*, This has been **two, or three hundred years in coming**. Jonah was there. He warned them of the judgment. Now Nahum is prophesying against them, **a hundred and fifty years after Jonah**. It was **yet another hundred years or so before the judgment actually came**. I am **thankful personally, for the patience that God has**. He is much more patient than I. He is longsuffering, and I appreciate that, when it comes to me. I'm not so appreciative when it comes to my enemies, but God is so merciful, so gracious as He deals with us, with our weaknesses, with our failings.
This memorable quotation is from Sir Alex Fraser Tytler (1742-1813 regarding the life of great civilizations). Scottish jurist and historian, he was widely known in his time and was professor of Universal History at Edinburgh University in the late 18th century. The quotation is from the 1801 collection of his lectures. *"A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largess from the public treasury. From that time on the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the results that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship."*
That is why our forefathers founded the United States of America as a **REPUBLIC**, not a DEMOCRACY. **The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years**. These nations have progressed through this sequence:
*from bondage to spiritual faith;
from spiritual faith to great courage;
from courage to liberty;
from liberty to abundance;
from abundance to selfishness;
from selfishness to complacency;
from complacency to apathy;
from apathy to dependency;
from dependency back again to bondage.*

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Nah 2:9 Take spoil of silver! Take spoil of gold! There is no end of treasure, Or wealth of every desirable prize.
Nah 2:10 She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain is in every side, And all their faces are drained of color.
Nah 2:11 Where is the dwelling of the lions, And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion walked, the lioness and lion's cub, And no one made them afraid?
Nah 2:12 The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs, Killed for his lionesses, Filled his caves with prey, And his dens with flesh.
Nah 2:13 "Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts, "I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."

The Woe of Nineveh – vs. 1-19

Nah 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs.
Nah 3:2 The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots!
Nah 3:3 Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses— They stumble over the corpses—
Nah 3:4 Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, And families through her sorceries.
Nah 3:5 "Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts; "I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness, And the kingdoms your shame.
Nah 3:6 I will cast abominable filth upon you, Make you vile, And make you a spectacle.
Nah 3:7 It shall come to pass that all who look upon you Will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste! Who will bemoan her?' Where shall I seek comforters for you?"
Nah 3:8 Are you better than No Amon That was situated by the River, That had the waters around her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall was the sea?

v. 9 Take - Thus the Chaldeans encourage one another in the plundering of the city. Every year they would send their armies out to destroy other cities, other nations. They would take all of the treasures, so that it was an extremely vast treasure store in Nineveh, for they had plundered the world.
v. 10 T Assyria had brought in booty from everywhere else and had gathered it all in one place, but their enemies came in and took it all out. As the face turns black with famine, under the siege. Fear gripping the hearts of the people, and the city emptying out..
v. 11 Of the lions - Tyrants and bloody warriors.
v. 12 tore in pieces - Formerly fell upon his neighbor nations. His lionesses - Queens, concubines, or ladies in the Assyrian court.
v. 13 I will burn your chariots - Nineveh. In the smoke - The city being first plundered, then burnt; these chariots were burnt in that smoke. your prey - "You're finished! Over! Done! Nineveh shall be no more!" Those are not worthy to be heard again, that have once spoken reproachfully against God.
v. 1 The internal condition of the city of Nineveh. "Woe to the bloody city!" Nineveh, as the capital of Assyria, was known in the ancient world to be very brutal, very bloody. They were feared and dreaded by other nations.
v. 2 A graphic description of these chariots. They are like armored tanks—they were the tanks of the ancient world. As they came inside the city, you could hear the noise of the whip as the driver whipped up his horse. You could hear the rattling of the wheels and the noise of the chariots."
v. 3 The slaughter that was to take place, and did take place, even exactly as Nahum predicted, and this is the reason...]
v. 4 The city of Nineveh is here likened unto a harlot. She was the one whom all the nations played up to. "The mistress of sorceries, that sells nations through her sorceries (witchcraft) Witchcraft is mentioned twice here. This is a reference to the occult. Don't for one moment think that the idolatry of the ancient world was meaningless.
v. 5 will show - I will strip thee naked, and deal with thee as inhuman soldiers deal with captive women.
v. 6 God calls this city a harlot, saying that He is absolutely going to display all of the shame and filth and vileness of this great civilization and make it a gazing stock, a spectacle, to the world. Such was the end of the great Assyrian Empire.
v. 7 No one is going to moan the fact that this horrible, vicious people are wiped out
v. 8 "No" was "thief", in Egypt. It also was an island kind of a complex in the Nile River. It was actually conquered by Assyria in 663BC, Nineveh was destroyed in 612BC. It was once a very wealthy, opulent place there in Egypt.



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Nah 3:9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, And it was boundless; Put and Lubim were your helpers.
Nah 3:10 Yet she was carried away, went into captivity; Her young children also were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her She honorable men, And all her great men were bound in chains.
Nah 3:11 You also will be drunk; You will be hidden; You also will seek refuge from the enemy.
Nah 3:12 All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs: If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater.
Nah 3:13 Surely, your people in your midst are women! The gates of your land are wide open for your enemies; Fire shall devour the bars of your gates.
Nah 3:14 Draw your water for the siege! Fortify your strongholds! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Make strong the brick kiln!
Nah 3:15 There the fire will devour you, The sword will cut you off; It will eat you up like a locust. Make yourself many—like the locust! Make yourself many— like the swarming locusts!
Nah 3:16 You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.
Nah 3:17 Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known.
Nah 3:18 Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; Your nobles rest in the dust. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them.
Nah 3:19 Your injury has no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you, For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?

v. 9 Her strength - Furnishing soldiers and warlike assistance. It was infinite - There was no end to their confidence and warlike provisions. Put - Or the Moors, who lie westward of Alexandria. Lubim - The people that inhabited that which is now called Cyrene.
v. 10 This is what Assyria had done to Thebes, and now chickens are coming home to roost. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Gal 6:7)
v. 11 The Assyrians will try to fortify their courage by getting drunk, but that is not going to help them a bit.
v. 12 When the figs are ripe, all you have to do is just touch a branch, and they all come tumbling down. This is what Nahum says to Nineveh here: "All your strongholds are like that. The minute the enemy comes, he is going to break right through them."
v. 13 Are women - Were very cowards. The gates - The strong frontiers. Wide open - Either through fear or treachery. your bars - With which the gates were shut and strengthened.
v. 14 Gather together water, store it, because of the siege, fortify the strongholds. Tread the mortar - Set your brick - makers on work to prepare store of materials for thy fortifications.
v. 15 There - In the very fortresses the fire will devour. Eat you up - As easily as the locust eats the green herb. Many - They are innumerable; beyond count.
v. 16 The locust plunders - spoils - So these locusts spoil wherever they come, and when no more is to be gotten, flee away.
v. 17 Your commanders - Thy confederate kings and princes. generals - Commanders and officers are for number, like locusts and grasshoppers; but 'tis all for shew, not for help. On a cold day - While the season suits them. The sun - When trouble, war, and danger, like the parching sun, scald them. Is not known - You shall never know where to find them.
v. 18 Your shepherds - your rulers and counsellors. Slumber - Are remiss, heartless, or dead. No man gathers - No one will concern himself to preserve thy dispersed ones.
v. 19 They're going to be utterly, completely destroyed, and there will be nothing but rejoicing among the nations, because of the cruelty, the fierceness of Assyria. The power is now gone, and the world rejoices in it. Just as was prophesied, so did it come to pass. God's certain word. You can read the annals of history, and discover that it happened just as Nahum had predicted. A hundred years later, the destruction of Nineveh came. The word of God again was confirmed and fulfilled. For Nahum and for us today, we take comfort in knowing that the judgments of the LORD are faithful and true. We don't need to envy the unrighteous or seek vengeance against them ourselves. Nahum shows us that God is more than able to take care of them and us, each according to His promise. The Lord judges the sins of nations and the sins of individuals. It is tragic to reject His warnings and persist in sin. "Be sure your sins will find you out."

THE INERRANCY OF THE SCRIPTURES! – BIBLICAL PROPHECY WILL NOT FAIL!!

You know, prophecy is such a fascinating thing. The bible is for the most part, prophecy, as God speaks of the things that are going to be, before they happen. So that, when they happen, you will know that it was God who had spoken. God has spoken of the days in which we live, and days that are yet future. He has described battles, and the fall of nations, and the fall of cities, just like He did Nineveh, that have not yet been fulfilled. Many of these prophesies of the future are about to be fulfilled. You can be sure that they, that their fulfillment is just as certain as was the fulfillment of the prophesies against Nineveh. **God's word will not, and cannot fail. That is why it is so foolish for a person to gamble against the word of God! To think that you can get by with your sin, to think that you really don't need Jesus Christ as your Savior, to think that somehow you can escape the judgment of God which is prophesied to come! You need to pay attention to what God has said, because God will fulfill His word, and those wonderful prophesies of the coming again of Jesus Christ, the establishing of God's kingdom, and the glorious reign of Christ upon the earth! It should be something that would thrill your heart, knowing that the word of God is certain. The word of prophecy is sure. What God has said, He has fulfilled, and He shall yet fulfill that which is not yet fulfilled. The word of God will not fail. You can trust your life to it.** Nahum ends his prophecy with a view of the righteous and their triumph over the unrighteous. This is something that the people of God need to be often reminded of, because it often goes against present appearances.

In [Psalms 73:1-28](#), Asaph dealt with this same problem. It seemed to him that the wicked constantly prospered and lived at ease. It troubled him so much that he doubted his own walk with God, *Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.* ([Psalms 73:17-19](#))