

NAHUM

THE PROPHECY

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NAHUM ~ The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Nahum 1** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the mouth of the LORD, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Nahum 1** and mark every reference to anger, wrath and vengeance of the Lord by underlining it with orange.

Read through **Nahum 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Nahum 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Nahum 1** and mark every reference to Nineveh, including pronouns, by highlighting it with green.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God's anger
2. To Assyria
3. To Israel
4. To Assyria
5. To Israel

READ AND ANSWER

Nahum 1:1-8

Who wrote this book?

What does this book contain?

How did the oracle of Nineveh come to Nahum?

How is the LORD described?

1.

2.

Note that the first line does just say the LORD is jealous and avenging, but it says that the LORD is a jealous and avenging God. What is the difference?

What is the LORD?

1.

2.

On whom does the LORD take vengeance?

For whom does the LORD reserve His wrath?

What is true of the LORD as recorded in **verse 3**?

POINT OF DEPTH

The LORD is slow to anger...

Jonah was in Nineveh one-hundred years earlier and offered the people an opportunity to repent. They did, but only for a short time. God could have sent His wrath on Nineveh any time He pleased, but He is slow to anger and waited many years before He ever sent Jonah; then He waited another one-hundred years before sending the oracle of Nineveh to Nahum.

The LORD is great in power...

The LORD's reason for waiting to destroy Nineveh was because He was slow to anger, not because He was powerless to do so. The LORD is great in power; He has the ability to deal with any and all situations, including the sin of Nineveh!

What will God never do?

When the LORD's anger burns to punish the guilty, how is His power conveyed?

What part of a whirlwind is being compared to the LORD's way?

What part of a storm is being compared to the LORD's way?

What is like dust beneath the feet of the LORD?

POINT OF DEPTH

The Lord is pictured as a powerful warrior. Remember, the Lord is Spirit, but this picture is given for us so that we might understand the LORD's ways more clearly.

**Think of a particle of dust beneath your feet.
In comparison, you would be huge and mighty!**

**Think of a cloud beneath the feet of the LORD considered as small as dust to Him.
Think of a cloud in comparison to you!**

**Men are small and insignificant;
not even able to be compared because the difference is so enormous!**

God is Great!

In **Chapter 1 of Nahum** the LORD is on the move! Furious forces of whirling wind and thunder and lightning surround Him as He heads toward earth to punish His enemies! As He advances, what does He do to the sea?

What does He do to the rivers?

Bashan was complete with luxurious pastures; Carmel was lavished with fields and vineyards; Lebanon was known for its dense, impenetrable forests. What happens to them when the LORD approaches?

As the LORD marches forward on His mission of vengeance, what happens to the mountains?

What do the hills do?

The entire earth is in upheaval, disruption, mayhem and confusion. Why? (Remember the picture Nahum is giving us of the LORD.)

Who reacts to the looming presence of the LORD?

What is indignation?

Who can stand before the Lord's righteous anger?

Who can endure the burning of His fury?

To what is the pouring out of His wrath compared?

What does He do to the rocks in His wrath?

Who is good?

What is good? (Look it up in a Bible concordance.)

When the LORD comes in His avenging wrath, it will be a day of trouble for those upon whom His wrath is poured out. But for some, He will be a stronghold during the day of trouble. What is a stronghold? (Look it up in a Bible dictionary.)

To whom will the LORD be a stronghold?

POINT OF DEPTH

In the Hebrew, “*and He knows those who take refuge in Him*”

can be translated as follows:

Those whom the LORD knows are those whom He keeps on knowing.

Those who take refuge in Him are those who keep on taking refuge in Him.

“Knows” means to have a concern to take care of something.

In other words;

The LORD keeps on having concern for, and taking care of,

those who keep on taking refuge in Him.

**What a relief! What a comfort!
The LORD keeps on taking care of me!**

**What a remarkable responsibility!
I must keep on taking refuge in Him!**

In contrast to being a stronghold and refuge for those whom the LORD knows, He is the destroyer to His enemies! What will the LORD do to Nineveh?

How will He make a complete end of its site? What will He use?

What will He do to His enemies?

Who is the LORD referring to when He talks about the fate of His enemies? (Remember, this is an oracle. Whom does the oracle concern?)

POINT OF DEPTH

**Just as a flood of water washes, scours and rinses out the area it flows through,
so God will scour and rinse away all traces of Nineveh into obscurity.
The LORD will ‘keep on knowing’ those who ‘keep on taking refuge’ in Him,
but Nineveh will be of insignificant anonymity to Him.**

Nahum 1:9-11 (The Lord addresses Nineveh.)

Who is devising a plan against the LORD?

What will happen to Nineveh's plans?

Will there be distress?

Will there be distress a second time?

Assyria (the nation of the city of Nineveh) will be consumed. How completely?

What three images does Nahum give of Nineveh being consumed?

1.

2.

3.

From whom has one gone forth?

What did the one do?

What was this one called?

Nahum 1:12-13 (The LORD addresses Israel.)

Though a wicked counselor has plotted evil against the LORD (to plot evil against God's people is to plot evil against Him), what will happen?

What sort of an army will be against Israel?

Despite the fact that the enemy is at full strength and many in number, what will happen to them?

Who has afflicted Israel?

How has the LORD afflicted Israel? To what is this referring?

What will the LORD do in the future?

Who did the LORD use to afflict Israel?

Whose yoke bar has been upon Israel?

Whose shackles have been upon Israel?

What will the LORD do to Assyria's yoke bar (a sign of servitude)?

What will the LORD do to Assyria's shackles (a sign of captivity)?

Nahum 1:14 (The LORD addresses Nineveh.)

Concerning whom has the LORD issued a command?

What is the command?

Will the command of the LORD come to pass?

Whose name will no longer be perpetuated?

What will God do to the house of their gods?

1.

2.

What will God prepare?

Why?

Nahum 1:15 (The LORD addresses Israel.)

What good news does the messenger on the mountain bring?

POINT OF CONNECTION

Isaiah 52:7; Romans 10:15; Acts 10:36

What does the messenger announce?

What victory has been achieved?

What is Judah told to do?

Why can Judah celebrate her victory feasts and pay the vows she made to the LORD?
(Vows were commonly made before going to war.)

Who is the wicked one?

Will the wicked one ever pass through Judah again?

Why? What has happened to him?

READ AND REASON

Nahum was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom, along with his contemporaries Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. Nahum most likely spent his entire life under the domination of the Assyrians, a fierce, brutal, violent people. His name means consolation or comfort. The root has the meaning “be relieved by taking vengeance”. You can see already in this first chapter that God’s people will be comforted by God taking vengeance upon His and their enemy.

Nahum’s message was ultimately proclaimed to God’s people, not to Nineveh. This is not an oracle to Nineveh; it is an oracle *of* Nineveh. This message is not for Nineveh; it is *about* Nineveh. Nineveh is not called on to repent.

**Nahum received a vision;
a vision showing destruction for Israel’s enemy and salvation for Israel herself.**

**He then wrote in a book what he had seen in the vision.
The book would have been able to travel to the people of Judah undercover,
so to speak, bringing consolation to those who read it.**

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Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Nahum 2** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the mouth of the LORD, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Nahum 2** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Nahum 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Nahum 2** and mark every reference to Nineveh, including pronouns, by highlighting it with green.

Read through **Nahum 2** and mark every reference to the “one who scatters”, including pronouns.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Nineveh attack by one who scatters
2. Nineveh plundered

READ AND ANSWER

Nahum 2:1-7

Who has come up against Nineveh, the wicked city?

In bitter irony and ridicule, what does God urge Nineveh to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Will any of these measures keep her safe?

Safe from Whom?

Who has sent the “one who scatters”?

Why has God sent the one who scatters against Nineveh?

Israel has been sufficiently chastised through God’s afflictions. Now what promise does God give to her?

What will the splendor of Judah be like?

Will the fact that devastators have devastated Israel and Judah be a hindrance?

Will the fact that their vine branches have all been destroyed make any difference?

Who is it Who will restore the splendor?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The One Who gave the splendor originally,
and took the splendor away when it pleased Him,
is able to restore the splendor of His people and His land
at any moment He chooses...
And He will!**

Whose mighty men have red colored shields? (In ancient times, many nations used copper or red colored shields. They would be a fear-provoking and frightening sight advancing toward an enemy.)

Whose warriors are dressed in scarlet? (Many times armies were dressed in scarlet to intimidate their enemies, but also to conceal any blood from wounds they might have received.)

Whose chariots are enveloped in flashing steel?

What happens when the one who comes against Nineveh is prepared to march?

1.

2.

POINT OF DEPTH

**Chariots racing madly in the streets, rushing wildly in the open areas of Nineveh;
they look like torches, dashing to and fro like lightning flashes.
Their cypress spears are brandished about as though they were light as a feather.
Oh, the destruction incurred during this battle! Nineveh will be devastated!**

The next verse is obscure and interpreted differently depending upon who the “he” is. The closest antecedent is the one who scatters, the “he” back in **verse 3**. Therefore, for our purposes, we will observe the text considering the “he” is the one coming against Nineveh. Who remembers his nobles?

What do his nobles do?

To where do his nobles hurry?

What is set up?

What is opened? (Look at **Nahum 1:8**.)

What happens to the palace?

The outcome is decreed. What happens to Nineveh?

1.

2.

What are the handmaids doing?

1.

2.

Whose handmaids are moaning?

To what is the moaning compared?

Nahum 2:8-13

What was Nineveh like throughout her days?

What is Nineveh like now that devastators have come?

What happens when the call goes out to stop fleeing?

Who is fleeing?

A voice cries out, "Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!" Why?

Is there anyone left to keep the invaders from plundering the silver and the gold?

How much treasure did Nineveh have inside her walls?

What types of treasure did Nineveh have inside her walls?

From where did Nineveh get her wealth?

What has happened to Nineveh?

1.

2.

3.

What is the condition of the people of Nineveh?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Assyria/Nineveh is compared to a lion's den that is no more. At one time, the lion, lioness and lion's cubs prowled freely, with nothing to bother them. (No nation could resist Assyria.) The young lions (soldiers) fed until they were satisfied. How much meat did the lion tear?

How much did the lion kill?

Did the lion kill more than it needed?

What did the lion do with its excess?

1.

2.

What declaration does the LORD of hosts make?

Why should Assyria be afraid to hear the declaration of the LORD of hosts?

Who is the LORD of hosts?

Over whom is the LORD of hosts the commander?

What will the LORD of hosts do to Nineveh?

1.

2.

3.

4.

READ AND REASON

Many scholars believe that the one who plotted evil against the Lord (Nahum 1:11) was Sennacherib, king of Assyria. He destroyed forty-six cities of Judah and besieged Jerusalem in 701 BC. He sent messengers to Jerusalem, who read

scornful, ridiculing letters to the people of Jerusalem. One example is in Isaiah 36. Read it through.

God says in Nahum 2:13, *“No longer will the voice of your messengers be heard.”*

Amen!

God does not reply to Mr. Sennacherib or his messenger, but He does answer Hezekiah’s prayer about the messenger’s taunting memo. Read it in Isaiah 37.

Amen!

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Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Nahum 3** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the mouth of the LORD, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Nahum 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Nahum 3** and mark every reference to Nineveh, including pronouns, by highlighting it with green.

Read through **Nahum 3** and mark every reference to No-amon, including pronouns, by underlining it with brown.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Nineveh devastated
2. Nineveh compared to No-amon
3. Nineveh scattered

READ AND ANSWER

Nahum 3:1-7

Upon whom is woe pronounced?

Who is the bloody city?

Of what is Nineveh completely full?

1.

2.

Does her prey ever depart?

What does that mean?

What is heard in the bloody city?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What are the horsemen doing?

What are their swords doing?

What are their spears doing?

What is the result?

1.

2.

3.

What happens because of the countless dead bodies?

Why did this annihilation take place?

Who was the harlot?

What is the harlot called?

1.

2.

What is her harlotry?

1.

2.

Who is against her?

What will the LORD of hosts do to her?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

How horrid! But we can also know *how just*, because our God is just and His judgments are righteous and true!

When people see Nineveh, what will they do?

When people see Nineveh, what will they say?

1.

2.

Are there any places in which comforters could be found for Nineveh? (Remember what she had done to the nations. **Nahum 2:8** through **3:4**)

List what atrocities Assyria had committed against the nations.

Nahum 3:8-10

How is Nineveh compared to No-amon? (No-amon was a major city in Egypt, which had fallen to Nineveh.)

How well situated and fortified was No-amon?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

In spite of all the advantages No-amon had, what became of her?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Nahum 3:11-15a

What will also happen to Nineveh?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

Who is the enemy and the “eater”?

Once again, in bitter irony and ridicule, God tells Nineveh to prepare herself for her battle with God. What does He tell her to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Despite her preparations, what will happen?

1.

2.

How completely will she be consumed?

Nahum 3:15b-19

What does God tell Nineveh to do?

1.

2.

What has she done?

Could the traders somehow be connected to selling nations and families? (**Nahum 2:4**)

What does the creeping locust do?

1.

2.

What are Nineveh's guardsmen compared to?

What are Nineveh's marshals compared to?

In what respect are they compared?

Where are grasshoppers on a cold day? Are they hidden?

What happens when the sun rises (and warms things up)?

Can they be found once they have fled?

What does God tell the king of Assyria his shepherds are doing?

Who are the sheep?

What are the king's nobles doing?

What should the nobles be doing?

Where are the king's people?

Can they be regathered?

Why not?

Nineveh is devastated. Is there any relief for her misery?

Can she be healed of her deadly wound?

When people hear about what happened to Nineveh, what will they do?

Why will everyone be happy that Nineveh has come to such a complete and horrible end?

POINT OF DEPTH

**The conquest and destruction of Nineveh were so complete
that its ruins were not discovered until 1842,
almost 2,500 years later!**

READ AND REASON

Does the book of Nahum cause you comfort or consternation over God's anger?

Does the book of Nahum cause you to consider your own situation before God?

God is sovereign. He does not tolerate sin. He will judge every last drop of disobedience in His creation. The picture given to us in Chapter One is of a Great Warrior God Who avenges all evil.

This is comforting for God's people. He will deal with us as a Father, disciplining us for our good. His discipline yields in us the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Hebrews 12:9-11

Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

However, for those who are not God's people, there is a terrifying expectation of judgment.

Hebrews 10:26-27

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:31

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the Living God!

Hebrews 12:25

See to it that you do not refuse Him Who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him Who warns from heaven.

And also, importantly, we *should* desire the Judge to execute His final judgment upon heaven and earth, because He deserves the glory. We should *want* justice to be dealt out.

The apostle John wept when he thought no one was found who was worthy to open the sealed book in Revelation. That book was the book of the judgments upon the earth! John was told to stop weeping because there was One Who was

worthy—the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David! He had overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals! The goal was to open the book to release the judgments!

Righteousness and justice go hand in hand.

When the third angel poured out his bowl (of God's wrath), the angel of the waters said, *"Righteous are You, Who are and Who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it."* Revelation 16:5-6

And the altar said, *"Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."* Revelation 16:7

At the destruction of Babylon, a great multitude in heaven said, *"Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bond-servants on her."* Revelation 19:1-2

And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! Her smoke rises up forever and ever." Revelation 19:3

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God Who sits on the throne saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" Revelation 19:4

And a voice came from the throne, saying, "Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great." Revelation 19:5

Remember, all this praise was specifically directed at God for *His judgments!*

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns!

Read the rest of Revelation and exult in the judgments of the Lord our God!

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