

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Nahum"
Book-34

Key Passage – Nahum 1:7-8; Nahum 3:5-7

Jesus said, Luke 12:48

Nineveh had been given the privilege of knowing the one and true God.

It was through the ministry of Jonah that this capital city of Assyria had been spared God's judgment. **Now 100 years' later, Nahum proclaims Nineveh's downfall. (Zephaniah 2:13-14)**

This brief book reminds us that **God is the God of vengeance and love. Though God is gracious, He does not spare the wicked.**

Minor Prophets are "minor" only in size.

In each of the Minor Prophets, you will usually find a three-fold lesson:

- (1) Historical**—each of the prophets preached and wrote to meet an immediate need in the lives of the people.
- (2) Prophetic**—each prophet illustrates or announces something about Israel's future in judgment or restoration.
- (3) Practical**—the sins of the nations in that day are with us today, and there are many practical lessons for us to learn from these books.

The Author – The author is Nahum. Nahum 1:1

Nahum – "*comfort, consolation*"

Nahum – is the shorter form of the name **Nehemiah** – "*Comfort of Yahweh*"

The city **Elkoshite** – In the time of Jerome, it was believed to exist in a small village of Galilee. Some believe it to be a city of southern Judah between Jerusalem and Gaza (Southern Kingdom). Alkush is a village on the east bank of the Tigris, about two miles north of Mosul. Some say Capernaum is named after Nahum.

When Written – Written about 660 BC.

Where it was Written – In Judah against Nineveh, Capital of Assyria.

Purpose – The city of Nineveh was built to last. High walls over 100 feet tall. They were wide enough to drive three chariots riding side to side. Over 200 towers, another 100 feet above the walls, and a 60-foot-deep moat 150 feet wide surrounded it.

Nahum 1:8 But with an overflowing flood This happened when the Tigris River overflowed its banks and destroyed part of the wall. The Babylonians came through the opening, took the city, and set it on fire.

Nahum 3:11 You too will become drunk, You will be hidden.

The city was destroyed in 612 BC and was not found until English archaeologist Austin Henry Layard in AD 1846-47

Jonah and **Nahum** - both deal with the wicked city of Nineveh and amaze us with God's gracious long-suffering.

Theme – Nahum – "Destruction of Nineveh"

"Save Your Sympathy For The Victim, Not The Criminal."

Key Words – Shall 24 times, against 16 times, destroyed 7 times, destruction 6 times

Key Chapter – Nahum 1 Gives the principles of divine Judgment. God is slow to wrath, but His judgment will not be delayed.

Key Passage – Nahum 1:7-8; 3:5-7

Outline –

- 1. Nahum 1:1-15 God Is Jealous: (Nineveh will fall)**
- 2. Nahum 2:1-13 God Is Judge: (How Nineveh will fall)**
- 3. Nahum 3:1-19 God Is Just: (Why Nineveh will fall)**

1. Nahum 1:1-15 God Is Jealous: (Nineveh will fall)

**Nahum 1:1-8 God Declares His Anger: Nahum 1:1
The oracle of Nineveh. KJV "Burden"**

This was a message that was literally a burden to Nahum. It was a message that tugged at his heart.

Nahum 1:2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;

This means God deserves total love and obedience and will not permit rivals.

God's wrath, or vengeance, is linked with a judicial act.

It is the right thing for God to punish the wicked. In fact, it is just as right for Him to punish the wicked as it is for Him to care "for those who trust in Him."

**Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,
And the LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.**

Criminals should be charged and punished, not to "rehabilitate" them, or even to "get them off the streets." Crime should be punished because a state, like God, must take the side of what is righteous and good.

Human beings are responsible for the wicked deeds they do.

Nahum 1:4-6, 7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble,

Let's not make the mistake of thinking that vengeance somehow goes against God's character. As Nahum said, "The Lord is good" (v. 7). Yet "goodness" not only stands in contrast with evil, it stands against evil!

Nahum 1:8 But with an overflowing flood

The Tigris River overflowed its banks and destroyed part of the wall.

Nahum 1:9-11, 14 God Speaks To Nineveh: Nahum 1:9-10

Proverbs 16:18

Nahum 1:11 One who plotted evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.

One who plotted evil It is likely that the specific reference is to **Sennacherib**, the most aggressive of Assyrian conquerors, who, according to Assyrian records, **devastated some 47 fortified cities in Judah in 701 B.C.**

Nahum 1:12-13, 15 God Encourages Judah:

Nahum 1:12 Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no longer.

Nahum 1:13 In fact, the conquest would be so easy, it would be like ripe figs dropping into a person's mouth (Nahum 3:12).

Nahum 1:14 I will prepare your grave, For you are contemptible." (Vile)

This is to be the fate of all who plot and do evil

Nahum 1:15 In ancient days, news had to be carried by couriers, and the watchmen on the walls scanned the horizon, hoping that messengers would bring good news.

Paul quoted the verse in **Romans 10:15** and *applied it to the proclamation of the News of the Gospel to lost sinners. Good news that God has defeated our enemies.*

Isaiah 52:7 Where the messenger announced the defeat of Babylon.

2. Nahum 2:1-13 God Is Judge: (How Nineveh will fall)

Nahum 2:1-4 The Invaders Appear And Advance: In 612 B.C., the Medes and the Babylonians united to attack Nineveh, and the Lord used them to judge the evil city.

Nahum 2:1 Strengthen your back, summon all your strength.

The guards on the city walls see the army advancing, and the officers issue orders and encourage their soldiers.

Nahum 2:2

Above all the noise, the voice of the Lord is heard as He speaks to Israel and Judah and assures them that they will be restored and reunited.

Nahum 2:3-4

The invading army is formidable with its manpower, armor, weapons, and chariots (vv. 3-4). Already their shields are red with blood. The chariots look like flames of fire as they dash here and there in the streets of the city, and the soldiers find it easy to slaughter the defenseless people.

Nahum 2:5-10 The City is Captured:

Nahum 2:5 He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their march, They hurry to her wall, And the mantelet (*Defense, roof shield*) is set up.

“**He**” refers to the king of Assyria who had plotted against the Lord and His people (1:9).

Nahum 2:6 The gates of the rivers are opened And the palace is dissolved.

“**The Khoser River**” flowed through the city, so the invaders dammed it up and then released the water so that it destroyed part of the wall and some of the buildings.

Nahum 2:7-10

She is emptied! Yes, she is desolate and waste!

What a destiny for the capital of an empire that had pillaged the world.

Hearts are melting and knees knocking! Also anguish is in the whole body, And all their faces are grown pale! All those who had struck terror into helpless victims were rendered helpless themselves.

Nahum 2:11-13 The Conquerors Taunt Their Captives:

Nahum 2:11-12

The Assyrians often used the image of the lion in their art and architecture.

Nahum 2:13 God defeated Assyria not Medes and Babylonians! Isaiah 10:5-19 God declared I did this!

No wonder the Lord announced, **"I am against you."** Over a century before, the Lord had sent Jonah to warn Nineveh, and when the city repented, He withdrew His hand of judgment. But now their time was up and the end had come.

3. Nahum 3:1-19 God Is Just: (Why Nineveh will fall)

Genesis 18:25 Psalm 9:5

Nahum Gives 3 Reasons Why Nineveh Deserved To Be Judged:

Reason #1 Nahum 3:1-3 Her Ruthless Bloodshed:

The Assyrians were clever diplomats who lied to other nations, broke their promises, and destroyed them. God notes, remembers, and judges (**Deuteronomy 19:11-13; Proverbs 6:16-17; Isaiah 59:7**)

"God's vengeance" is no abstract theological concept, but a terror that hangs over the head of the wicked, whether they are aware of it or not.

Reason #2 Nahum 3:4-7 Her Idolatry:

Nahum 3:4 All because of the many harlotries of the harlot,

Often in Scripture, idolatry is associated with prostitution, and when you consider that the chief deity of Nineveh was **Ishtar** - "*goddess of sexual passion, fertility, and war,*" you can understand why Nahum used this metaphor.

People become like the god that they worship (Psalm 115:8)

Nahum 3:5 "Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts;

That is why the mighty have fallen. It is because God had decreed it.

In ancient times, prostitutes were often shamed by being publicly exposed, and this is what God promised to do to Nineveh.

Nahum 3:6-7

Reason #3 Nahum 3:8-19 Her Pride And Self-Confidence:

Nahum 3:8

He begins with a fact of history: the defeat of the Egyptian city of **Thebes, or No-Ammon**, by the Assyrians in 663 (vv. 8-11). If you visit Karnak and Luxor in Upper Egypt, you will be at the site of ancient Thebes.

Nahum 3:9-11

Nahum 3:12

In fact, the conquest would be so easy, it would be like ripe figs dropping into a person's mouth

Nahum 3:13-14 Why? Because the ferocious Assyrian soldiers would be drained of their strength and be like women: weak, afraid, and unable to meet the enemy (vv. 13-14).

Nahum 3:15-17

The sun rises and they flee, And the place where they are is not known.

Nahum 3:18-19

Like the Book of Jonah, the Book of Nahum ends with a question:
“for who has not felt your endless cruelty?”

God, the Judge, has determined a punishment that is just.

Application:

- 1. Nahum 1:2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;** Any View Of God That Does Not Take Into Account God’s Wrath Is A Distorted View. But Rightly Understood, Even The Doctrine Of The Wrath Of God Is A Comfort To His Saints.
- 2.** Don’t Make The Mistake Of Thinking That Vengeance Somehow Goes Against God’s Character. **Nahum 1:7 “The Lord is good”** Yet “Goodness” Not Only Stands In Contrast With Evil, It Stands Against Evil.

God Can And Does Use The Evil Acts Of Wicked Men To Accomplish His Own Purposes, But God Does Not Cause The Wicked To Do Evil. Thus, The Wicked Remain Responsible For The Evil They Do.

- 3. Nahum 3:1-3** “God’s Vengeance” Is No Abstract Theological Concept, But A Terror That Hangs Over The Head Of The Wicked, Whether They Are Aware Of It Or Not.

Depraved Leaders Who Authorize The Heartless Slaying Of Innocent Victims Will Someday Answer To God For Their Crimes Against Him And Humanity.