

CC **OLD** BC
TESTAMENT
SURVEY

NAHUM
 DR. BILL EGNER
 JUNE 30, 2024

COMING UP... JUL 7: Zephaniah JUL 14: Jeremiah part 1 (chs. 1-33) JUL 21: Jeremiah part 2 (chs. 34-52) JUL 28: Habakkuk AUG 4: Lamentations AUG 11: Obadiah

NAHUM SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Victory!"

THE TIMES ...

100-150 years ago God had sent Jonah to Nineveh to announce judgment and doom. Surprisingly the king and people repented; God temporarily relented from destroying them. But there was no lasting repentance or change. Assyria has attacked Judah under Hezekiah. God would no longer withhold His judgment. So He sends Nahum to Judah with the news.

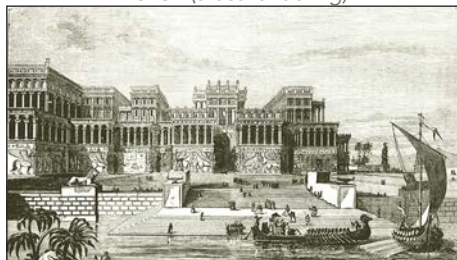
Nineveh from above (artist rendering)



Nineveh (artist rendering)



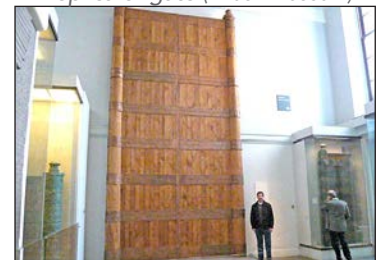
Location of Nineveh on a modern-day map



Ishtar's Temple (artist rendering)



A winged lion for a gate



Replica of gate (British Museum)



THE BASICS ...

Who: Nahum – "comfort" or "consolation" **When:** Pre-exilic (about 663-654 BC) **Where:** writing to Judah about Nineveh
Why: "The purpose of the book was to bring comfort to Judah by announcing the coming destruction of Nineveh. That destruction was coming because of God's justice and Nineveh's sin." –Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: Live as a victor ... not a victim!

God Is Jealous For His People (1)

He speaks of Himself (vv. 2-8)

He is jealous (Ex 34:14)

For His Name, His glory, His worship

- For His relationship with His people (e.g. Hosea/marriage)
- For His people's loyalty and affection (Jas 4:5)
- He is avenging (Deut 32:35, 41; Ps 94:1)
 - For justice
 - For His Law/Word
 - Toward His people's oppressors
- He is wrathful (rage Nahum 1:2-3)
 - Against sin
 - Against those who oppose Him
 - But He is slow to anger; measured and calculated but thorough
- He is good (Nahum 1:7-8)
 - A strong refuge in times of trouble
 - Close and caring toward those who trust Him
 - He is severe and He is kind (cf. Rom 11:22)
- He speaks to Nineveh (vv. 9-11, 14)
 - Your schemes will fail
 - Your people will not escape
 - You have plotted evil against Me and My people
 - You are despicable/vile
- He speaks to Judah (vv. 12-13, 15)
 - Assyria's allies will not be able to help them
 - I will set you free from their bondage
 - I will conquer your enemy
 - You will live in peace
 - You will celebrate!

God Acts Sovereignly For You (2)

- He will send invaders to Nineveh (vv. 1-5)
- He will overthrow the city (vv. 6-10)
- Its leaders will be taunted [and marched away] in defeat (vv. 11-13)

God's Judgment Is Just (3)

- Because they shed innocent blood (vv. 1-3)
- Because they worshiped idols (vv. 4-7)
- Because they were proud and self-confident (vv. 8-19)

And So Judah ...

- I will set you free from your enemy!
- Be comforted
 - I am sovereignly in charge; I have the final word
- Live with hope and joy
 - I am Who I say I am; I will do what I've said I'll do
- Live distinctly holy lives now
 - Live out My inevitable and soon-coming victory in your life today

APPLICATION: Live as a victor ... not a victim!

God Announces Victory

- Nahum (1:15)
 - Judah, you can rejoice because I will fully and finally defeat your enemy Assyria (612 BC)
- Isaiah (52:7)
 - Judah, you can rejoice because I will fully and finally defeat your enemy Babylon (535 BC)
- Paul (Rom 10:15)
 - Christian, you can rejoice because I have fully and finally defeated your enemies: sin/death/Satan

Living As Victors, Not Victims

"I have set you free from your enemies!"

Be comforted and live at peace

Live in the quiet confidence that the One Who has the final word in all things is your heavenly Father

Be characterized by hope and joy in tomorrow

Live distinctly holy lives

Live out God's victory in your life today

Romans 12:9-21

Some Final Observations

When you're in times of affliction/trouble ...

You just have to "win" today's battle; let tomorrow take care of itself

Your misery may become your ministry

Affliction/trouble will either make you bitter ... or it'll make you better

God wants you to walk with Him as a victorious one, as one of His overcomers

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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The Near East during Nahum's Time (about 645~615 BC). The Assyrian empire under King Ashurbanipal (668-626 BC) reached its peak and threatened to engulf Judah. Yet Nahum brought hope and the promise that the Assyrian empire would be destroyed. After Ashurbanipal's death Assyria quickly lost its strength, and its capital Nineveh was sacked by the Babylonians in 612 BC, marking the end of Assyrian dominance.

ASSYRIA 1:12-14; 3:18

JUDAH 1:15; 2:2

THEBES, EGYPT, LIBYA, PUT, ETHIOPIA 3:8-10

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Fulfillments of Nahum's Prophecies

Nahum's Prophecies

Historical Fulfillments

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured (3:12).</p> <p>2. The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls (3:14).</p> <p>3. The city gates would be destroyed (3:13).</p> <p>4. In the final hours of the attack the Ninevites would be drunk (1:10; 3:11).</p> <p>5. Nineveh would be destroyed by a flood (1:8; 2:6, 8).</p> <p>6. Nineveh would be destroyed by fire (1:10; 2:13; 3:15).</p> <p>7. The city's capture would be attended by a great massacre of people (3:3).</p> <p>8. Plundering and pillaging would accompany the overthrow of the city (2:9-10).</p> <p>9. When Nineveh would be captured its people would try to escape (2:8).</p> <p>10. The Ninevite officers would weaken and flee (3:17).</p> <p>11. Nineveh's images and idols would be destroyed (1:14).</p> <p>12. Nineveh's destruction would be final (1:9, 14).</p> | <p>1. According to the Babylonian Chronicle the fortified towns in Nineveh's environs began to fall in 614 B.C. including Tabris, present-day Sharif-Khan, a few miles northwest of Nineveh.</p> <p>2. A.T. Olmstead reported: "To the south of the gate, the moat is still filled with fragments of stone and of mud bricks from the walls, heaped up when they were breached" (<i>History of Assyria</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, p. 637).</p> <p>3. Olmstead noted: "The main attack was directed from the northwest and the brunt fell upon the Hatamti gate at this corner. . . . Within the gate are traces of the counterwall raised by the inhabitants in their last extremity" (<i>History of Assyria</i>, p. 637).</p> <p>4. Diodorus Siculus (ca. 20 B.C.) wrote, "The Assyrian king . . . distributed to his soldiers meats and liberal supplies of wine and provisions. . . . While the whole army was thus carousing, the friends of Arbakes learned from some deserters of the slackness and drunkenness which prevailed in the enemy's camp and made an unexpected attack by night" (<i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> 2. 26. 4).</p> <p>5. Diodorus wrote that in the third year of the siege heavy rains caused a nearby river to flood part of the city and break part of the walls (<i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> 2. 26. 9; 2. 27. 13). Xenophon referred to terrifying thunder (presumably with a storm) associated with the city's capture (<i>Anabasis</i>, 3. 4. 12). Also the Khosr River, entering the city from the northwest at the Ninlil Gate and running through the city in a southwesterly direction, may have flooded because of heavy rains, or the enemy may have destroyed its sluice gate.</p> <p>6. Archeological excavations at Nineveh have revealed charred wood, charcoal, and ashes. "There was no question about the clear traces of the burning of the temple (as also in the palace of Sennacherib), for a layer of ash about two inches thick lay clearly defined in places on the southeast side about the level of the Sargon pavement" (R. Campbell Thompson and R.W. Hutchinson, <i>A Century of Exploration at Nineveh</i>. London: Luzac, 1929, pp. 45, 77).</p> <p>7. "In two battles fought on the plain before the city the rebels defeated the Assyrians. . . . So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing stream, mingled with their blood, changed its color for a considerable distance" (Diodorus, <i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> 2. 26. 6-7).</p> <p>8. According to the Babylonian Chronicle, "Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap" (Luckenbill, <i>Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia</i>, 2:420).</p> <p>9. "Sardanapalus [another name for King Sin-shar-ishkun] sent away his three sons and two daughters with much treasure into Paphlagonia, to the governor of Kattos, the most loyal of his subjects" (Diodorus, <i>Bibliotheca Historica</i>, 2. 26. 8).</p> <p>10. The Babylonian Chronicle states that "[The army] of Assyria deserted [lit., ran away before] the king" (Luckenbill, <i>Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia</i>, 2:420).</p> <p>11. R. Campbell Thompson and R.W. Hutchinson reported that the statue of the goddess Ishtar lay headless in the debris of Nineveh's ruins ("The British Museum Excavations on the Temple of Ishtar at Nineveh, 1930-1," <i>Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology</i>. 19, pp. 55-6).</p> <p>12. Many cities of the ancient Near East were rebuilt after being destroyed (e.g., Samaria, Jerusalem, Babylon) but not Nineveh.</p> |
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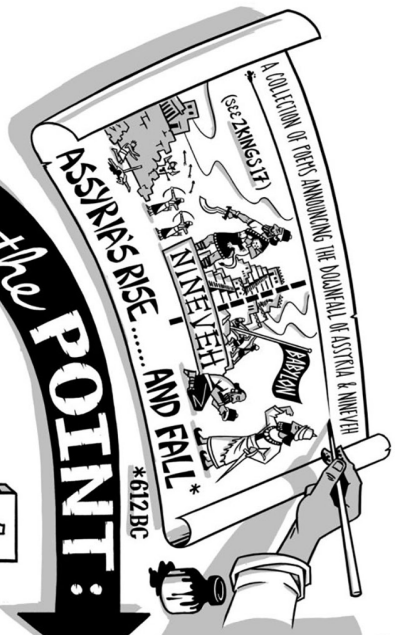
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"Nahum" by James Tissot

1:1	In light of God's attributes	Destruction Declared	What God will do to Nineveh
1:9	In light of Nineveh's sins	Destruction Described	How God will do it to Nineveh
2:1	The coming of Nineveh's enemies	Destruction Described	How God will do it to Nineveh
2:2	The attack on Nineveh's defenses		
2:3	The destruction of Nineveh's "lair"	Destruction Described	Why God will do it to Nineveh
2:10			
2:11		Destruction Described	Why God will do it to Nineveh
2:13			
3:1	Because of her harlotries	Destruction Described	Why God will do it to Nineveh
3:7			
3:8	Because of her treatment of nations	Destruction Described	Why God will do it to Nineveh
3:19			

NAHUM



NAHUM

NAHUM IS PORTRAYING NINEVEH'S FALL AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW GOD CAN'T ALLOW VIOLENT EMPIRES TO ENDURE. (SEE DANIEL)

ADDRESSES THE TRAGEDY OF VIOLENT OPPRESSION & HUMAN SUFFERING IN HISTORY

GOD IS GRIEVED BY THE DEATH OF THE INNOCENT

GOD'S GOODNESS & JUSTICE COMPEL HIM TO ORCHESTRATE THE DOWNFALL OF OPPRESSIVE NATIONS

the POINT:

1

GOD APPEARS TO JUDGE EVIL AMONG THE NATIONS

SHULAR TO MICAH 4:1 & HABAKUK 2:3

"THE LORD IS SLOW TO ANGER & GREAT IN TOLERANCE, & HE DOESN'T LEAVE EVIL UNPUNISHED." (1:3) (QUOTING EXODUS 34:6-7)



2 THE FATE OF THE NATIONS

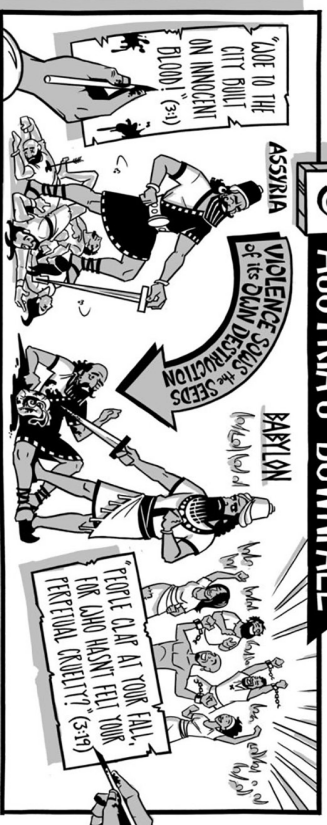
3 THE FATE OF GOD'S FAITHFUL REMNANT

10-17 NAHUM NINEVEH HENIENS NINEVEH IN CH 1

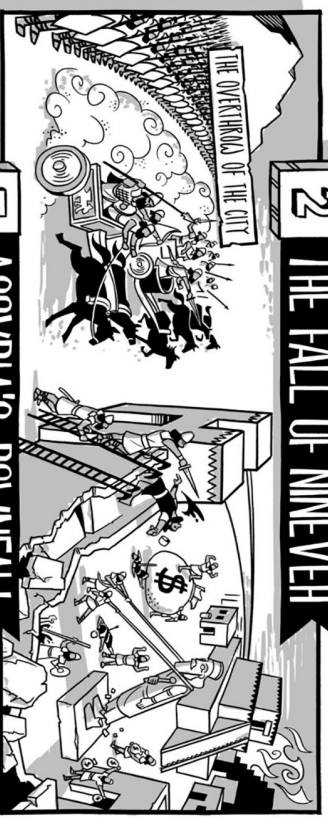
FALL of the "BAD GUYS" = FALL of BABYLON (SAIRH DATE)

"GOOD NEWS" FOR THE REMNANT = ISAIAH 52:7

"THE LORD IS GOD, A REFUGE IN THE DAY OF DISTRESS. HE CARES FOR THOSE WHO TAKE REFUGE IN HIM." (1:7)



2 THE FALL OF NINEVEH



3 ASSYRIA'S DOWNFALL

TIMELINE OF NAHUM

722	Sargon II of Assyria conquers Israel	701	Manasseh becomes king of Judah	695	Sennacherib of Assyria surrounds Jerusalem	627	Jeremiah begins prophetic ministry	612	Assyrian capital of Nineveh sacked	605	Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon victorious at Carchemish	592	Ezekiel begins prophetic ministry	586	Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judah, Jerusalem taken to Egypt
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