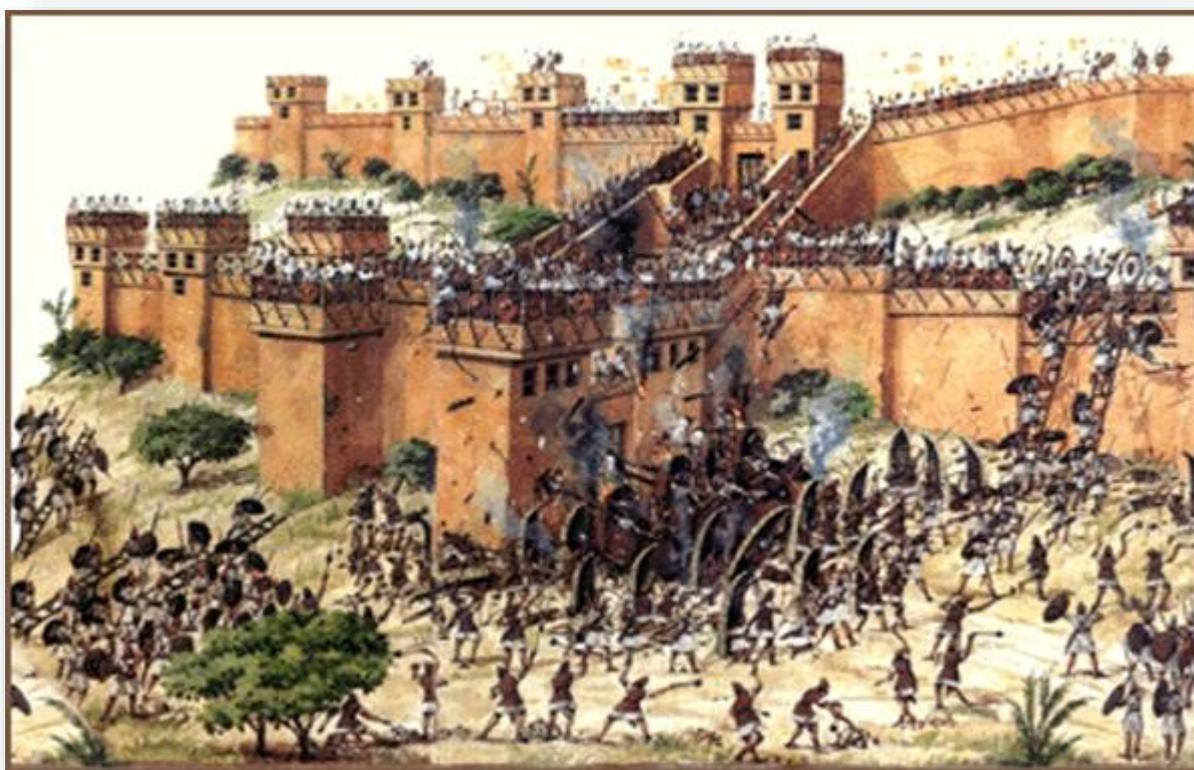


# Book of Nahum

## Study BIBLE



## Introduction

Book No	34
Name	Nahum
Written By	Nahum
Testament	Old
Category	Minor Prophets
Date Written	Approx. 663 - 612 BC
Place Written	Israel
Audience	To the people of Israel and Nineveh
Purpose	To pronounce God's judgment on Assyria and to comfort Judah with this truth
History Covered	663 - 612 BC
Chapters	3
Verses	43
Key Verse	<p>The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.</p> <p>But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.</p> <p>What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. (1:7-9)</p>
Key People	NA
Key Places	❖ Assyria

## Purpose of the Book

There are laws in the world as well—boundaries and rules for living established by God. But men and women regularly flaunt these regulations, hiding their infractions or overpowering others and declaring that might makes right. God calls this sin—willful disobedience, rebellion against his control, or apathy. And at times it seems as though the violators succeed—no whistles blow, no fouls are called, and individual dictators rule. The truth is, however, that ultimately justice will be served in the world. God will settle all accounts.

Nahum graphically portrays the seriousness of sin in the sight of God. Though His mercy and patience may cause Him to withhold judgment for a season, God will ultimately announce a day of reckoning.

When His righteous judgment is unleashed, no human or superhuman power can withstand its force. His dominion extends over all that exists, and He sits on the bench as Judge over both individuals and nations. Nahum calls us to serious self-examination and warns against the subtle sin of believing that life can be lived apart from the will and the ways of God. He chides us for becoming overly smug and secure in our faith, for Assyria, once used as God’s instrument (Is. 10:5, 6), now becomes the object of His wrath. The most frightening words anyone could ever experience are those directed toward Nineveh by the Lord: “Behold, I *am* against you” (2:13). With such prospects in view, serious self-examination should lead us into wholehearted repentance.

Misuse and abuse of other people is sin in God’s sight. Assyria built an empire by raping and plundering others, but national or personal kingdoms founded on deceit and tyranny also are displeasing to the Lord and will be judged by Him. A life of wickedness eventually will lead to isolation, not only from other people, but also from God. Others will withdraw from you, and God will finally be forced to judge (3:19).

Graciously, His judgment against the sinful is offset by His mercy toward the faithful. To the proud, the arrogant, and the rebellious He comes with condemnation. To the humble, the devoted, and the faithful He comes with comfort.

Assyria’s long-awaited doom teaches that God’s goodness and justice will prevail, though circumstances may seem contradictory. His concern for His people is unceasing, though He may sometimes seem slow to act or far removed. The antidote

for discouragement among believers is a revitalized vision of the person and power of God. It is a renewed understanding that vengeance is the work of God, not of ourselves. True faith leaves judgment in the hands of God.

The truth of God's judgment upon sin and the sinner should prompt believers to a renewed evangelistic mission. Those we fail to reach with the saving message of the gospel will indeed suffer the wrath of God.

Assyria was the most powerful nation on earth. Proud in their self-sufficiency and military might, they plundered, oppressed, and slaughtered their victims. One hundred years earlier, Jonah had preached in the streets of the great city Nineveh; the people had heard God's message and had turned from their evil. But generations later, evil was again reigning, and the prophet Nahum pronounced judgment on this wicked nation. Nineveh is called a "city of murder" (3:1), a city of cruelty (3:19), and the Assyrians are judged for their arrogance (1:11), idolatry (1:14), murder, lies, treachery, and social injustice (3:1-19). Nahum predicted that this proud and powerful nation would be utterly destroyed because of its sins. The end came within 50 years.

In this judgment of Assyria and its capital city, Nineveh, God is judging a sinful world. And the message is clear: Disobedience, rebellion, and injustice will not prevail but will be punished severely by a righteous and holy God, who rules over all the earth.

As you read Nahum, sense God's wrath as he avenges sin and brings about justice. Then decide to live under his guidance and within his rules, commands, and guidelines for life.

### Overview

- ❖ 34<sup>th</sup> book of the BIBLE, Old Testament, 7<sup>th</sup> of the 12 minor prophets and 12<sup>th</sup> of the 17 prophetic books
- ❖ The only time Nahum is mentioned in the Old Testament occurs in 1:1.
- ❖ Nahum's prophetic ministry has to do with the fall of Assyria and its capital city of Nineveh.
- ❖ As a result of Jonah's preaching in the city of Nineveh, the people repented and God spared the city.
- ❖ 150 years after the preaching of Jonah, Assyria and the city of Nineveh fell.
- ❖ Nahum's prophecies against Nineveh takes place:
  - 100 years after Jonah's preaching in Nineveh.

- 50 years before Nineveh will be conquered.
- ❖ Nineveh had become the mightiest city on earth.
- ❖ Its walls were 100 feet high and wide enough to accommodate three chariots riding side by side.
- ❖ The walls were surrounded by a moat 150 feet wide and 60 feet deep.
- ❖ It is believed that Nineveh could withstand a 20-year siege.
- ❖ After Nineveh's destruction in 612 B.C., it has never been rebuilt.

## Hebrew Names of GOD used in Nahum

NA

## Revelation of JESUS CHRIST

The Book of Nahum pronounces God's judgment on sin and evil, personified in the wickedness of the Assyrians. Nineveh was indeed destroyed, but that partial and temporary defeat of evil awaited the complete and permanent conquest that would come only through Jesus Christ. Nahum's prophecy proclaims that God cannot countenance evil, that sin must be cut off from the Earth. At the crucifixion of Christ, God drove the final nail into sin's coffin by cutting off His own Son. See Matt. 27:46; 2 Cor. 5:21. God's final judgment on wickedness and evil took place at the Cross. That is surely reason for even greater celebration than that prompted by the fall of Nineveh (Nah. 3:19).

But the counterpart, God's greatest demonstration of His goodness, is also revealed in Jesus Christ. Nahum proclaims that God is good, but His goodness was brought to its climax only in Christ (Rom. 5:6–11). God's goodness was enfleshed in Jesus, a living declaration of the good tidings of peace. Now humanity has a way to return to its God appointed tasks and calling (Nah. 1:15). The wicked lioness (Nah. 2:11, 12) has been defeated and replaced by the righteous Lion of the tribe of Judah (Rev. 5:5). God's vengeance against sin has been satisfied through the sacrifice of His Son.

## Work of THE HOLY SPIRIT

No specific references to the Holy Spirit occur in the Book of Nahum. However, the Spirit's work in the production of the prophecy and in the direction of the events depicted in the book must be assumed.

The heading of the book describes it as “the vision of Nahum” (1:1). The Holy Spirit functions here as the Revealer, the One who opens to Nahum the drama that unfolds before him and imparts the message from the Lord he is commissioned to deliver.

The Holy Spirit must also function as the Great Instigator in the downfall of Nineveh. Enemies, among them the Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians, gather forces against the Assyrians and sack the city. God uses human agents to carry out His judgment, but behind it all is the working of His Spirit, prompting, pushing, and punishing according to the will of God. By the work of the Spirit, the Lord mustered His troops and led them into victorious battle.

## Mega Themes of Nahum

### GOD JUDGES

God would judge the city of Nineveh for its idolatry, arrogance, and oppression. Although Assyria was the leading military power in the world, God would completely destroy this “invincible” nation. God allows no person or power to usurp or scoff at his authority.

Anyone who remains arrogant and resists God’s authority will face his anger. No ruler or nation will get away with rejecting him. No individual will be able to hide from his judgment. Yet those who keep trusting God will be kept safe forever.

### GOD RULES

God rules over all the earth, even over those who don’t acknowledge him. God is all-powerful, and no one can thwart his plans. God will overcome any who attempt to defy him. Human power is futile against God.

If you are impressed by or afraid of any weapons, armies, or powerful people, remember that God alone can truly rescue you from fear or oppression. We must place our confidence in God because he alone rules all of history, all the earth, and our life.

## Life Lessons in Nahum

<b>Truth</b>	<b>Lesson</b>
<b>Growing in Godliness</b>	❖ Understand that though Nineveh was a real, historical city, today it can represent

<p>Everyone's life includes areas where the enemy, Satan, has held us captive to sin. Assyria had dominated God's people, holding them in slavery and bondage. In the Book of Nahum, we read that the time had come for God to break the yoke of oppression and bondage. It was time to set the captives free from the stronghold of their enemy. What God did then, He can do now. He desires to break every yoke of oppression and sin and to free you to live a life of godliness.</p>	<p>a stronghold of sin or oppression in the believer's life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ God completely destroyed Nineveh, even at the height of its power. Ask the Lord to forgive your sin and to break every yoke of bondage that holds you captive. Ask your pastor or a trusted, mature friend to pray with you for God's deliverance and freedom. Remember, Jesus' resurrection power sets the captives free (Luke 4:18).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultivating Dynamic Devotion</b></p> <p>In the midst of this prophecy of judgment against God's enemies, our Lord is beautifully portrayed. Nahum prophesied the cutting off of Nineveh; but his prophecy was ultimately fulfilled in the victory over Satan, the enemy of God, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Thank God for the good news of the gospel.</li> <li>❖ Worship Jesus, who has given us the victory over Satan. Surrender your heart fully to the One who has delivered you and set you free (Rom. 10:13–15; 16:20).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pursuing Holiness</b></p> <p>From the time of Jonah's prophecy to Nineveh until the time of Nahum's prophecy, wickedness had so permeated Assyrian society that repentance was no longer an option. God had truly been slow to anger, even with this ungodly nation. The time of mercy, however, had ended</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Thank God that He is mercifully slow to anger.</li> <li>❖ Do not presume, however, on that mercy.</li> <li>❖ Give your life to Jesus. He will save you from God's judgment on sin. Understand that God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for your salvation. Respond to God; receive Jesus' holiness</li> </ul>

<p>and God's wrath was poured out in judgment. We must understand that our only hope of mercy, forgiveness, and acquittal is through Jesus Christ. If you have not done so, pray right now and ask Jesus to forgive you and to be your Lord and Savior.</p>	<p>on your behalf. Turn from your sin and follow Jesus (John 3:16, 17).</p>
<p><b>The Walk of Faith</b></p> <p>God's people were being held in slavery by the strongest nation on Earth.</p> <p>Into their captivity came Nahum's prophecy. It would have taken tremendous faith to believe that this great nation and fortified city could be defeated. God proved Himself faithful.</p> <p>God is the same today as He was then and challenges us to put our faith in Him. He is able to help you and deliver you (Heb. 13:8).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Put your faith in God. Believe that He is good.</li> <li>❖ He knows you have put your trust in Him.</li> <li>❖ He is able to rescue you, no matter how large the obstacle may seem. Believe that nothing is too hard for the Lord, and ask Him to deliver you and set you free.</li> <li>❖ Believe that GOD is willing and able to deliver us from any bondage</li> <li>❖ Know that HE will eventually stop any attack upon us</li> <li>❖ Hear and believe the good news of deliverance from our soul's enemy thorough JESUS CHRIST (Rom 16:20)</li> </ul>

### Praise Points in Nahum

- ❖ Righteously judging evil (1:2-7)
- ❖ Faithfully delivering his people from destruction (1:15).

### Worship Insights in Nahum

- ❖ The Lord righteously judges sin but offers salvation to his people. Our worship should reflect these two truths about God (1:2-7).
- ❖ Worship includes a celebratory response to the deliverance and hope that God has granted us (1:15).

## An Outline of Nahum

- I. An Avenger Is Our Lord Nah\_1:1-11**
    - A. The Vengeance of God Nah\_1:2-3
    - B. The Power of God Nah\_1:3-6
    - C. The Goodness of God Nah\_1:7-8
    - D. The Severity of God Nah\_1:9-11
    - E. Conclusion
  
  - II. The Wicked One Shall Exist No More Nah\_1:12-15**
    - A. God Will Liberate the Afflicted Nah\_1:12-13
    - B. God Will Judge the Oppressor Nah\_1:14
    - C. God Will Announce Good News Nah\_1:15
    - D. Conclusion
  
  - III. The Lion of Assyria Will Be Routed Nah\_2:1-13**
    - A. In Spite of Any Preparation Nah\_2:1
    - B. In Order to Restore the Excellency of Israel Nah\_2:2
    - C. In the Swift Advance of the Attack Nah\_2:3-5
    - D. In the Collapse of Its Defenses Nah\_2:6-10
    - E. In the Finality of God's Judgment Nah\_2:11-13
    - F. Conclusion
  
  - IV. The Harlot Will Be Exposed and Disgraced Nah\_3:1-7**
    - A. Her Sins Exposed Nah\_3:1-4
    - B. Her Unfaithfulness Revealed Nah\_3:5-7
    - C. Conclusion
  
  - V. The Invincible Will Be Destroyed Nah\_3:8-13**
    - A. Now the Mighty Have Fallen Nah\_3:8-10
    - B. Now the Strong Are Helpless Nah\_3:11-13
    - C. Conclusion
  
  - VI. Free At Last; Thank God, We're Free At Last Nah\_3:14-19**
    - A. Fight, Fight, Fight for Nineveh Nah\_3:14-17
    - B. Clap, Clap, Clap for Victory Nah\_3:18-19
    - C. Conclusion
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