

BOOK OF NAHUM

The Sequel to Jonah

Nahum 1-2



HISTORICAL BOOKS RELATIONSHIP

Samuel Saul David Solomon
UNITED KINGDOM

Israel (Northern Kingdom)

931BC

PROPHETS OF ISRAEL

AMOS
760 753

722BC

ELISHA
848 ???

HOSEA
755 725

ELIJAH
874 846

JONAH
785 750

Judah (Southern Kingdom)

931BC

PROPHETS OF JUDAH

(Babylonian Exile)

OBADIAH
850 840

ISAIAH
740 680

JEREMIAH
627 585

EZEKIEL
592 570

605BC

JOEL
841 834

MICAH
735 700

ZEPHANIAH
640 620

DANIEL
605 536

NAHUM
650 620

HABAKKUK
609 606

POST EXILE
MALACHI HAGGAI ZECHARIAH

1 Samuel
Judgship to Kingship

1085BC

2 Samuel
David

1010BC

1 Kings
United then Divided Kingdom

970BC

2 Kings
Divided Kingdom and Exile

853BC

1 Chronicles
Priestly

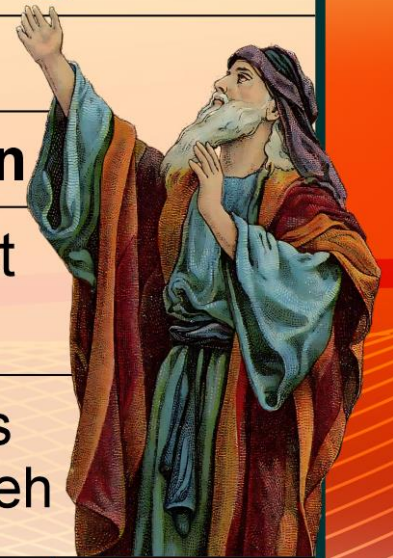
2 Chronicles
Priestly aspects of History

Ezra
Nehemiah

538BC

NAHUM: NINEVEH'S DOOM

NAHUM 1			NAHUM 2		NAHUM 3		
WHO			WHAT		WHY		
The Judge			The Judgment		The Justification		
Nineveh's Verdict DECLARED			Nineveh's Vision DESCRIBED		Nineveh's Verdict DESERVED		
Certainty of God's Judgment on Nineveh			Description of God's Judgment on Nineveh		Reasons for God's Judgment on Nineveh		
God's Attributes	Plotting Against God	Destruction is Judah's Deliverance	The Attack	Destruction and Plundering	Destruction for Cruelty Attributes	Drunk When Destroyed	Burned With Fire
1:2-8	1:9-11	1:12-15	2:1-6	2:7-13	3:1-7	3:3-11	3:12-19



📍 Nahum Ministry Years: 650-620BC

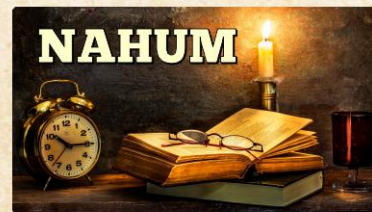
📍 PURPOSE: To announce the fall of Nineveh and thereby comfort Judah with the assurance that God is in control.

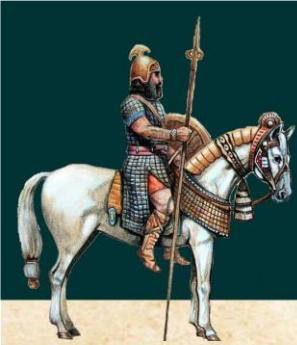


NAHUM INTRODUCTION



- **The book of Jonah is the first of two parts. The second part, or the sequel, is the book of Nahum.**
- **The book of Nahum tells the continuing story of the city of Nineveh 147 years later.**
- **Though the prophet primarily addressed Nineveh (1:8, 11, 14; 2:1, 8; 3:7), he also addressed Judah (1:12, 15; 2:2) in comfort.**

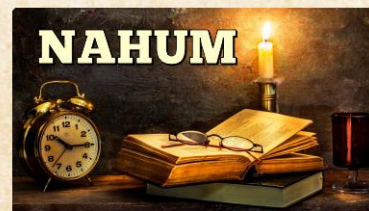




NAHUM INTRODUCTION



- **The coming judgment on Nineveh (in return for her terrible atrocities on various nations including Israel, the Northern Kingdom, in 722BC) would bring great comfort to the afflicted Judah (1:12).**
- **Judah had felt the threat of the Assyrian Empire breathing down her neck. In fact Assyria had defeated much of Judah and had even surrounded Jerusalem in 701BC.**
- **During much of Manasseh's reign Judah had to pay tribute to Assyria. Nineveh was likely at its height of power.**

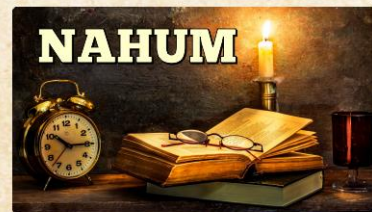




NAHUM INTRODUCTION



- **Nineveh boasted of their cruelty. They made pyramids of human heads, burned cities, skinned people alive, and flung bodies to wild beasts.**
- **She had sown, so now she will reap (Ga.6:7-8, principle).**
- **God rules in the nations of men (Ps.103:19; 113:4).**
- **Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people (Pr.14:34).**



JONAH AND NAHUM CONTRASTED



JONAH NARRATIVE

**MINISTRY (785-750BC)
TO NINEVEH**

FOCUS ON THE MESSENGER

**JONAH MESSAGE:
CALL TO REPENTANCE**

NINEVEH OBEYS

DELIVERANCE FROM WATER

GOD'S COMPASSION

REPENTANCE FROM SIN

NINEVEH DELIVERED (759BC)

NAHUM DECLARATIVE



**MINISTRY (650-620BC)
ABOUT NINEVEH**

FOCUS ON THE MESSAGE

**NAHUM MESSAGE:
JUDGMENT & DESTRUCTION**

NINEVEH DISOBEYS

DESTRUCTION BY WATER

GOD'S JUDGMENT

RETURN TO SIN

NINEVEH DESTROYED (612BC)

NINEVEH: JONAH AND NAHUM

FALL OF ISRAEL

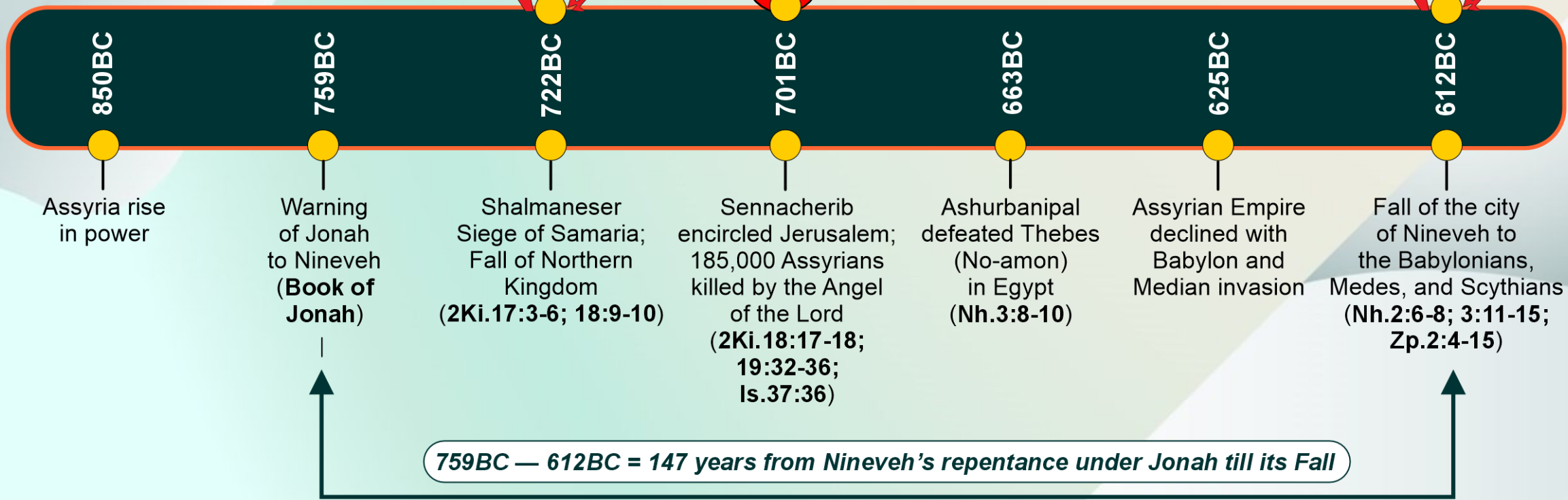
FALL OF NINEVEH

“dove”

JONAH
 785-750 BC
 35 YEARS

“Consolation”

NAHUM
 650-620 BC
 30 YEARS





THE BURDEN OF NAHUM

(Nahum 1:1)

The burden against Nineveh.
The book of the vision of
Nahum the Elkoshite.

NAHUM 1:1





“The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.” (Na.1:1)

- This is a threatening message about Nineveh's doom.**
- This was a vision message Nahum saw mentally and spiritually (Is.1:1; Ob.1:1).**
- In the prophets, a burden is a “heavy” message of weighty importance that produces sorrow or grief.**
- The “book of the vision” was in some way ‘seen’ by Nahum. This book is the record of what he saw in the vision.**





“The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.” (Na.1:1)

- Nineveh repented a century earlier (Jonah), but the city had fallen back into wickedness.**
- Assyria was the empire that had carried the people of the 10-tribe kingdom of Israel off into exile. It was God's decree that such an event should take place.**
- God was angry at the personal satisfaction that the heathen nation got out of Israel's downfall, and of the unnecessary cruelty that was imposed.**
- Elkosh was a village thought by many to be in southwest Judah.**





“The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.” (Na.1:1)

- The Prophecy of Nahum shows us that God not only deals with individuals as individuals, He also deals with nations as nations (Mt.25).**



**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;**

NAHUM 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;” (Na.1:2)

- Nahum begins his prophecy by considering the character of the God who brings judgment.**
- God’s jealousy is love in action. God is not jealous OF us: He is jealous FOR us. God refuses to share the human heart with any rival.**
- Everyone who sets themselves against God will end up receiving His vengeance.**
- Sin must be accounted for, because He will not acquit the wicked. Every sin will be paid for — either in hell or at the cross.**



**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.**

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:3)

- Though there is a time and place where He does display His anger, it doesn't come quickly or capriciously.**
- God is not like an unjust judge who simply lets the guilty go out free with a false sense of compassion.**
- Never once has God pardoned an unpunished sin. He has never blotted out sin without punishment.**
- A huge whirlwind or storm is nothing to God, because He has His way in them.**



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

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:4)

- BASHAN, located below Mt. Hermon, east of the Jordan River was known for her lush pastures (Mi.7:14).**
- CARMEL, along the coast of Canaan, became synonymous with fruitfulness (So.7:5).**
- LEBANON was renowned for her beautiful cedars (1Ki.5:14-18).**
- These too would wither before the infinite strength of the omnipotent Judge.**







Bashan - Carmel - Lebanon

- **BASHAN**, located below Mt. Hermon, east of the Jordan River was known for her lush pastures (Mi.7:14).
- **CARMEL**, along the coast of Canaan, became synonymous with fruitfulness (So.7:5).
- **LEBANON** was renowned for her beautiful cedars (1Ki.5:14-18).

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

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:5)

- All of these statements are made as a description of the power of God.**
- The violent shaking of the earth provides another evidence of the Lord's awesome power, as even the most stable features of earth tremble.**
- God is able not only to control the material things that have no intelligent power of resistance, but He can rule all living creatures in the world which includes men and nations.**



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.

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:6)

- God is slow to anger, but when it does come His fury is poured out like fire.**
- This should make man quick to repent and wary of presuming on God’s patience.**
- It is logical to ask the question with which this verse begins, for if God has such universal power it is folly for anyone to think of resisting Him.**
- Paul makes the same figurative comparison of God (He.12:29) in which he quotes from the Moses (Du.4:24, “For the LORD your God is a consuming fire...”).**



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

NAHUM 1:7





**“The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble;
And He knows those who trust in Him.” (Na.1:7)**



- Notice that it is only a “day of trouble.” There is an end to all our griefs.**
- Not only does He know them in the sense of identification, but also in the sense of relationship.**
- Trust implies relationship, and God knows those who trust in Him.**
- He knows our aspirations, our sighs, our groans, our secret longings, and when we fail. He has entered into them all.**



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

NAHUM 1:8





**“But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.”
(Na.1:8)**

- Their end in judgment will come like “an overflowing flood”.**
- The final siege of Nineveh was by a rebel army of Persians, Medes, and Babylonians.**
- An unusually heavy rain caused the rivers to flood and to undermine the city’s walls, which then collapsed. The invading armies entered the city through this breach in its defenses.**
- The “utter end of its place” was literally fulfilled.**







PLOTTING AGAINST GOD

(Nahum 1:9-11)

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

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:9)

- This is a challenge question especially intended for Assyria.**
- All Assyrian attempts to foil God's judgment would end in futility.**
- Nineveh was ripe for a devastating judgment. This was not a harsh chastening; this was utter destruction to come upon the city.**
- The promise “Affliction will not rise up a second time” because the judgment will be so severe the first time.**



**For while tangled like thorns,
And while drunken like
drunkards, They shall be
devoured like stubble fully
dried.**



NAHUM 1:10





“For while tangled like thorns, And while drunken like drunkards, They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.” (Na.1:10)

- **“Fully dried” is how ripe Nineveh is for judgment, and how complete the fire of judgment will be when it comes.**
- **Though the Assyrians form such an opposition against the people of Israel, they will be devoured as stubble fully dry.**
- **The resistance will be no more effective than dry stubble would be against a fire.**



**From you comes forth
one Who plots evil
against the LORD, A
wicked counselor.**

NAHUM 1:11





**“From you comes forth one Who plots evil
against the LORD, A wicked counselor.” (Na.1:11)**



- Though Sennacherib, king of Assyria, had failed in his attempt to destroy Jerusalem, the Ninevites continued to plot ways to overcome the city.**
- In plotting evil or calamity against His people they were actually plotting against the Lord.**
- Assyria's schemes would fail because God would keep those plans from being carried out.**



**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;**

NAHUM 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;” (Na.1:12)

- The enemies of Zion looked mighty. They were “safe” and “many.” Yet they will be devastated by the judgment that the LORD promised.**
- God’s people looked weak and afflicted; yet God promises that they will be strengthened and restored (“afflict you no more”).**
- The passage now is addressed to Judah for consolation or encouragement.**



**For now I will break off
his yoke from you, And
burst your bonds apart."**

NAHUM 1:13





**“For now I will break off his yoke from you,
And burst your bonds apart.”” (Na.1:13)**



- The power of Judah's oppressor Nineveh, will be broken (“I will break off”).**
- The believer, today oppressed by sin, can ask God to break the bond of sin.**
- Only God can break off the power of the things that bind us.**
- Nahum interweaved God's judgment upon Nineveh and expressions of blessing and hope for Judah.**



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."

NAHUM 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.”” (Na.1:14)



- The city of Nineveh was once instantly recognized as one of the great “power cities” of the world.**
- God promises to bring this wicked city so low that they lose their legacy and name among the nations.**
- In this vivid imagery, God warns Nineveh of its coming judgment and destruction.**



**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.**

NAHUM 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.” (Na.1:15)**

- The contrast between the fate of the godly and wicked is good news to Nahum and the people of God.**
- Rejoicing is not in this context gleeful gloating at the misfortune of others. It is rather pleasure at the vindication of God and His promises.**
- Knowing the grace and mercy of God to His people should not make the believer careless in obedience, it should make the believer more careful to obey every word of the LORD (“feasts” and “vows”).**





**“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.” (Na.1:15)**



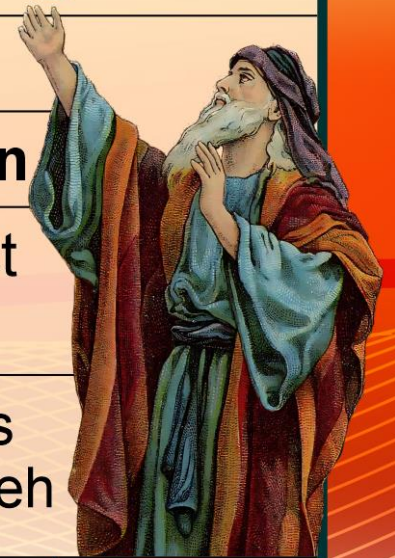
How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who
brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad
tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says
to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (Is.52:7)

- **In Isaiah (Is.52:7), the good news is the coming of the Messiah.**
- **In Nahum (Na.1:15), the good news is the defeat of the enemies of God’s people.**
- **Paul quoted from Isaiah 52:7 to speak of those who brought the good news of the gospel (Ro.10:15).**



NAHUM: NINEVEH'S DOOM

NAHUM 1			NAHUM 2		NAHUM 3		
WHO			WHAT		WHY		
The Judge			The Judgment		The Justification		
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📍 Nahum Ministry Years: 650-620BC

📍 PURPOSE: To announce the fall of Nineveh and thereby comfort Judah with the assurance that God is in control.



A CALL TO BATTLE

(Micah 2:1-2)

**He who scatters has come up
before your face. Man the fort!
Watch the road! Strengthen
your flanks! Fortify your power
mightily.**

NAHUM 2:1





“He who scatters has come up before your face. Man the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks! Fortify your power mightily.” (Na.2:1)

- Nahum sees a mighty army coming against the city of Nineveh.**
- “Before your face” denotes that the hostile army was to come into the immediate presence of the city.**
- This chapter predicts the events of 612 B.C., when the combined armies of the Babylonians and the Medes sacked seemingly impregnable Nineveh.**
- Assyria had made a practice of dispersing captives (“scatters”) to many nations; now, she would receive similar judgment.**



**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.**

NAHUM 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.” (Na.2:2)


- Part of God’s restoration for His people is connected to judgment and destruction on their enemies.**
- Those who emptied Judah's vine branches will now face destruction.**
- It is true that God decreed the downfall of the nation of Israel, which is meant by the statement the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, and it was to be done through the agency of Assyria.**
- But God never did not approve of the unnecessary cruelties which they used.**



**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.**

NAHUM 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.” (Na.2:3)

- The battle for Nineveh is fierce and bloody, and though the defense is prepared they will be conquered.**
- His mighty men refers to the great men in the Babylonian army that will be invading Assyria.**
- The red and scarlet has reference to the appearance of the equipment, caused either by the artificial coloring or by the reflection of the sun.**
- Warriors, denoting their eagerness and readiness for battle, would energetically wave their weapons (“spears are brandished”).**



**The chariots rage in the
streets, They jostle one
another in the broad roads;
They seem like torches,
They run like lightning.**

NAHUM 2:4





“The chariots rage in the streets, They jostle one another in the broad roads; They seem like torches, They run like lightning.” (Na.2:4)



- Confusion reigned in Nineveh, where battle preparations were hurriedly made.**
- Nahum predicts the great number of chariots in the streets would jostle one against another.**
- The charging chariots of the besieging enemy seemed to bolt furiously in wild frenzy (Je.46:9). They moved so quickly that they looked like “lightning.”**



**He remembers his nobles;
They stumble in their
walk; They make haste to
her walls, And the defense
is prepared.**

NAHUM 2:5





**“He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their walk;
They make haste to her walls, And the defense is
prepared.” (Na.2:5)**

- **“He” probably refers to the Assyrian king Sinsharishkun because he summoned “his nobles” to defend “the city wall” and set up the protective shield.**
- **This seems to describe Nineveh's royalty and military leaders dashing to one of her many defense towers.**
- **The Assyrian king would call on his nobles to defend the city, but they would stumble in their haste to do so.**
- **They would hurry to Nineveh's walls to set up some type of protective shield to deflect the attacker's arrows, spears, and stones.**



**The gates of the rivers
are opened, And the
palace is dissolved.**



NAHUM 2:6





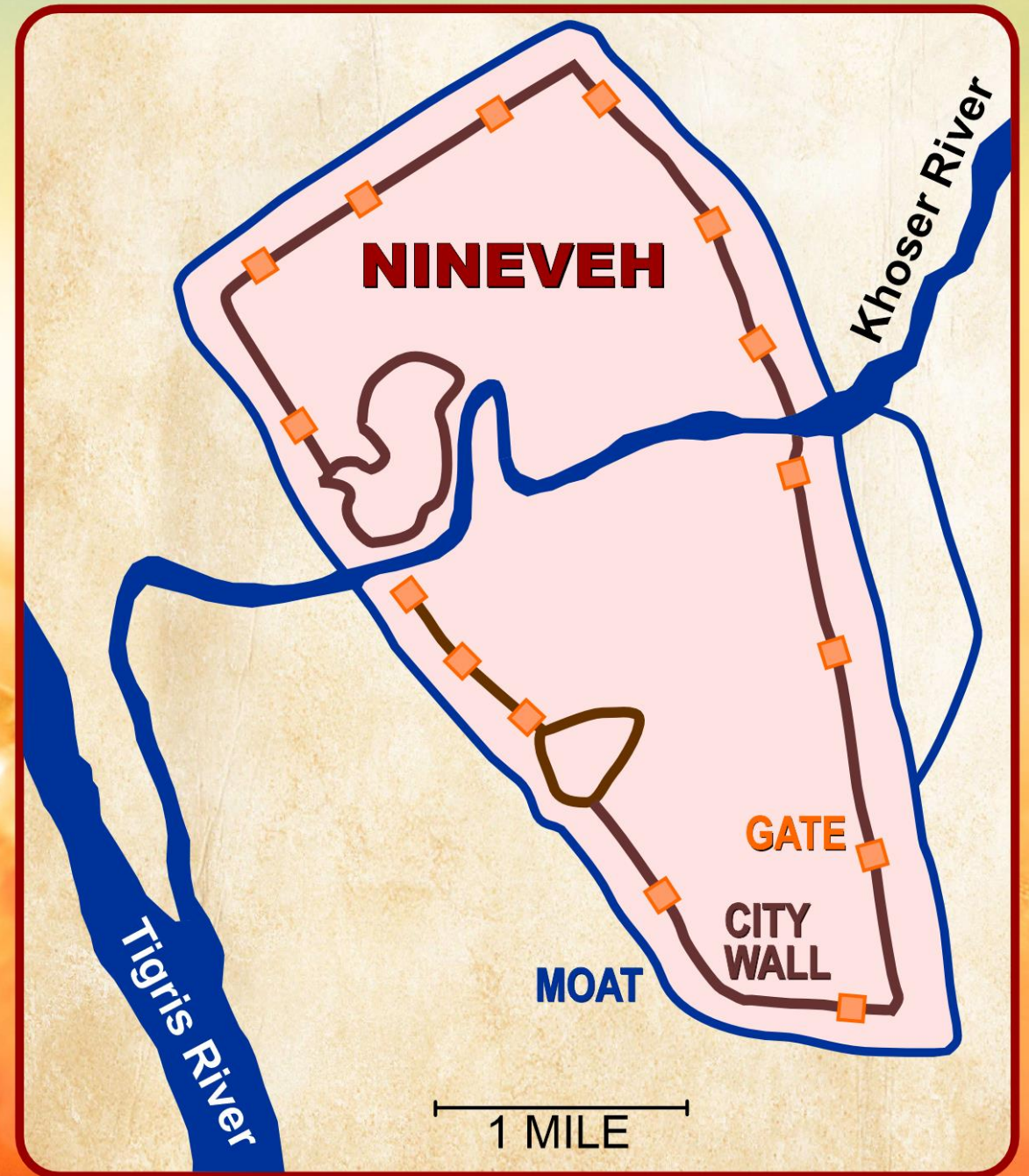
“The gates of the rivers are opened, And the palace is dissolved.” (Na.2:6)

- The “gates of the rivers” likely refer to the floodgates to control the flow of the Khosr River that passed through the city.**
- Perhaps at the beginning of the siege the enemy closed the floodgates. When the reservoirs were completely full, they threw open the gates and the palace collapsed.**
- The waters may have also been increased by heavy rains.**



CITY OF NINEVEH

- It was the largest city in the world at the time of Jonah.
- 721BC, Assyria invaded and captured the northern kingdom of Israel.
- 680BC, Assyria tried to conquer Judah, but God intervened and destroyed their army.
- 612BC, Nineveh was destroyed by the Medes and Babylonians. The ruins remained until uncovered in 1842.
- It is encircled by the modern city of Mosul, Iraq.



NINEVEH BRIEF HISTORY



759BC

722BC

701BC

612BC

Nineveh first mentioned (Ge.10:11-12)

Warning of Jonah

----- 147 years from Nineveh's repentance under Jonah till its fall -----

Fall of Northern kingdom of Israel

185,000 Assyrians killed

Fall of Nineveh to the Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians



Jonah 3



2Ki.17:3-6; 18:9-10



2Ki.18:17-18; 19:35; Is.37:36



Na.2:6-8; 3:11-15; Zp.2:4-15

**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.**

NAHUM 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.” (Na.2:7)

- Nahum not only sees the battle, he sees the outcome. Nineveh will fall before this mighty army, and she will be humbled and led away captive.**
- The goddess of Nineveh, probably Ishtar, was taken away by her attackers to demonstrate the superiority of their gods (1Sm.4:1-11).**
- The temple prostitutes ("maidservants") mourned the fate of their goddess.**





NINEVEH BROUGHT LOW AND SPOILED

(Micah 2:8-12)



Nahum 1-2