

# BOOK OF NAHUM

The Sequel to Jonah

# Nahum 2-3



# 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

JOEL  
841 834

MICAH  
735 700

ZEPHANIAH  
640 620

DANIEL  
605 536

NAHUM  
650 620

HABAKKUK  
609 606

586BC

POST EXILE  
MALACHI   HAGGAI   ZECHARIAH

**1 Samuel**  
Judgship to Kingship

1085BC

**2 Samuel**  
David

1010BC

**1 Chronicles**  
Priestly

970BC

**1 Kings**  
United then Divided Kingdom

853BC

**2 Chronicles**  
Priestly aspects of History

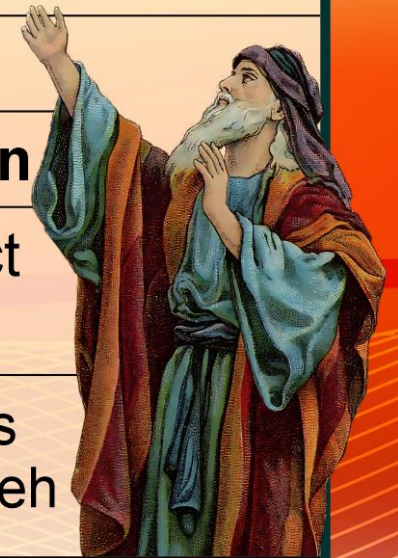
**2 Kings**  
Divided Kingdom and Exile

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	Her Violence and Deceit	Her Treatment of Thebes	Her Efforts Are Useless
<b>1:2-8</b>	<b>1:9-11</b>	<b>1:12-15</b>	<b>2:1-6</b>	<b>2:7-13</b>	<b>3:1-7</b>	<b>3:8-11</b>	<b>3:12-19</b>



📍 Nahum Ministry Years: 650-620BC

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





# NINEVEH BROUGHT LOW AND SPOILED

(Nahum 2:8-12)

**Though Nineveh of old was  
like a pool of water, Now  
they flee away. "Halt! Halt!"  
they cry; But no one turns  
back.**

**NAHUM 2:8**





**“Though Nineveh of old was like a pool of water, Now they flee away. “Halt! Halt!” they cry; But no one turns back.” (Na.2:8)**

- Nahum says the troops defending Nineveh are like a pool of water that drains away to no use. They are useless in defending the city.**
- Nineveh was like an oasis (“pool of water”) in the desert that attracted many people. They will “flee away.”**
- “Halt! Halt!” is the cry of the more resolute inhabitants trying to stop the fleeing citizens. The people are in a panic.**



**Take spoil of silver! Take  
spoil of gold! There is no  
end of treasure, Or wealth  
of every desirable prize.**

**NAHUM 2:9**





**“Take spoil of silver! Take spoil of gold! There is no end of treasure, Or wealth of every desirable prize.” (Na.2:9)**

- An impressive confirmation of this prophecy is that nothing of all this gold and silver has been discovered in the ruins of Nineveh by archaeologists. Nineveh was indeed stripped bare.**
- Spoils abounded in Nineveh, but it was her turn to be plundered.**







**She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain is in every side, And all their faces are drained of color.**

**NAHUM 2:10**

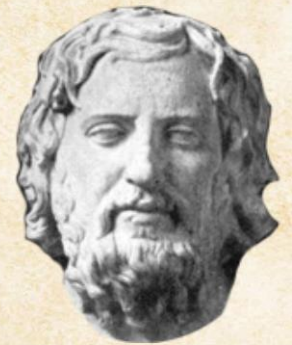




**“She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain is in every side, And all their faces are drained of color.” (Na.2:10)**



- **Because their wealth was being plundered and their lives were endangered, the Ninevites were frightened and terror-stricken (“hearts melts”).**
- **Two hundred years later the ancient Greek historian and military strategist, Xenophon when he passed the great city saw nothing but ruins.**



XENOPHON  
(430–355 BC)



**Where is the dwelling of the  
lions, And the feeding place of  
the young lions, Where the lion  
walked, the lioness and lion's  
cub, And no one made them  
afraid?**

**NAHUM 2:11**





**“Where is the dwelling of the lions, And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion walked, the lioness and lion's cub, And no one made them afraid?” (Na.2:11)**



- Nahum responded to the envisioned destruction of the city with a taunt, Where now is the lions' den? His rhetorical question implied that the capital no longer existed.**
- The lion was one of the national emblems of the Assyrian Empire, and they crushed and plundered other nations like lions destroying prey. Sennacherib boasted of his military fury by saying, “Like a lion I raged.”**



**The lion tore in pieces enough  
for his cubs, Killed for his  
lionesses, Filled his caves  
with prey, And his dens with  
flesh.**

**NAHUM 2:12**





**“The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs, Killed for his lionesses, Filled his caves with prey, And his dens with flesh.” (Na.2:12)**

- Like a pride of lions, with plenty to eat and in fear of no enemy, Nineveh ruthlessly “tore in pieces” her prey. She herself will become prey for another nation, under the sovereign direction of God.**
- The heroes and leaders of the Assyrian nation are likened to the lions because of their savage treatment of men and women who fell into their hands.**





**THE LORD VOWS  
TO CONQUER  
NINEVEH**



**(Nahum 2:13)**

**"Behold, I am against you," says the LORD of hosts, "I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."**

**NAHUM 2:13**







**“Behold, I am against you,” says the LORD of hosts, “I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more.” (Na.2:13)**

- What a terrible thing to hear from God!**
- The principle of Ro.8:31 is true for the believer: If God is for us, who can be against us?**
- This title “LORD of hosts” refers to God’s place as Commander in Chief over all the armies of heaven.**
- They showed no mercy toward others and now the Lord will bring a nation against them that will burn their chariots and slay their strong men.**





# **NINEVEH'S VIOLENCE AND DECEIT**

**(Nahum 3:1-7)**

**Woe to the bloody city!  
It is all full of lies and  
robbery. Its victim never  
departs.**

**NAHUM 3:1**





**“Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. Its victim never departs.” (Na.3:1)**

- Nahum takes a tour of the city of Nineveh and observes how ripe it is for judgment.**
- It is busy with violence, deception, and idolatry.**
- The first accusation was a charge well documented in history. Assyria proved to be an unusually cruel, bloodthirsty nation.**
- Preying upon her victims, she filled her cities with the goods of other nations (“robbery”).**



**The noise of a whip And  
the noise of rattling  
wheels, Of galloping  
horses, Of clattering  
chariots!**

**NAHUM 3:2**





**“The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels,  
Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots!” (Na.3:2)**



- He sees and hears it is a busy city, full of the “noise” of whips, wheels, horses, and chariots.**
- Military operations were carried on largely with chariots drawn by horses. The “noise of a whip” motivated the animals on through the city.**
- Streets had rough and rocky surfaces and the chariot wheels were equipped with hard tires, hence the “rattling” noise they would make.**



**Horsemen charge with bright  
sword and glittering spear.  
There is a multitude of slain,  
A great number of bodies,  
Countless corpses— They  
stumble over the corpses—**

**NAHUM 3:3**





**“Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. There is a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, Countless corpses— They stumble over the corpses—” (Na.3:3)**

- Not only were the rulers of Assyria terribly cruel, they boasted of the cruelty.**
- Assyria was so overrun that she is filled with corpses, causing the defenders to stumble over them.**
- The “horsemen” drove the horses and fought the enemy nearby.**





**Because of the multitude of  
harlotries of the seductive  
harlot, The mistress of  
sorceries, Who sells nations  
through her harlotries, And  
families through her sorceries.**

**NAHUM 3:4**





**“Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot,  
The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her  
harlotries, And families through her sorceries.” (Na.3:4)**

- The Mesopotamian region was known for many superstitions and sorcery incantations.**
- The Assyrians used incantations to seek to foretell the future and influence others’ lives. They also read omens in the movements of birds, animals, clouds, and in dreams.**
- Assyria lusted for power like the lusting of a “harlot.”**
- Nineveh sold her military aid and power in order to lure “nations” under her control.**



**"Behold, I am against you," says  
the LORD of hosts; "I will lift  
your skirts over your face, I will  
show the nations your  
nakedness, And the kingdoms  
your shame.**

**NAHUM 3:5**





**“Behold, I am against you,” says the LORD of hosts; “I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness, And the kingdoms your shame.” (Na.3:5)**

- **Nahum repeats what he said earlier (2:13), “I am against you”:**
  - **The emphasis was on the military defeat of Nineveh (2:13)**
  - **The emphasis is on humbling the city (3:5)**
- **This aligns with the principle that “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1Pe.5:5).”**
- **Nineveh walked in pride, and as a result had the LORD against them.**



**I will cast abominable  
filth upon you, Make  
you vile, And make  
you a spectacle.**

**NAHUM 3:6**





**“I will cast abominable filth upon you, Make you vile, And make you a spectacle.” (Na.3:6)**

- God will take the idols of Nineveh (“abominable filth”) and throw them back in their face.**
- The Hebrew word for “filth” is used of anything that is detestable. It often refers to idols (Du.29:17; Je.4:1; Ek.20:7-8). Nineveh’s glory would turn into filth.**
- The idea behind the Hebrew word for “vile” is that something is made weak, foolish, and contemptible. This is to expose the city so that her true condition could be seen as vile.**



**It shall come to pass that all  
who look upon you Will flee  
from you, and say, 'Nineveh is  
laid waste! Who will bemoan  
her?' Where shall I seek  
comforters for you?"**

**NAHUM 3:7**





**“It shall come to pass that all who look upon you Will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste! Who will bemoan her?' Where shall I seek comforters for you?" ” (Na.3:7)**

- Nineveh walked high in her pride, but will certainly be brought low. She will have no “comforters.”**
- Instead of mourning (“Nineveh is laid waste”), there would be rejoicing at her fall. None would be found to comfort her; she would bear her misery alone.**







# **NINEVEH'S TREATMENT OF THEBES**

**(Nahum 3:8-11)**

**Are you better than No Amon  
That was situated by the River,  
That had the waters around  
her, Whose rampart was the  
sea, Whose wall was the sea?**

**NAHUM 3:8**





**“Are you better than No Amon That was situated by the River, That had the waters around her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall was the sea?” (Na.3:8)**

- Like No Amon by the Nile, Nineveh was situated by the Tigris River, enjoying the security of conquered nations around her. However, her end would be like that of No Amon.**
- Thebes was another wealthy, mighty city that was destroyed completely.**
- The Assyrians in Nineveh knew this well, because it was their armies that destroyed Thebes.**
- Nahum says, “Remember what you did to No Amon? The same is coming on you.”**



# THEBES



# THEBES



- **“No Amon” is the Hebrew name for the Egyptian city of Thebes.**
- **Thebes was the great capital of southern Egypt, 400 miles south of Cairo.**
- **Thebes was one of the most magnificent ancient civilizations of the world.**
- **It was renowned for its 100 gates, a temple measuring 330 feet long and 170 feet wide, and its network of canals.**
- **It fell to Ashurbanipal of Assyria in 663BC, some 51 years before Nineveh fell (612BC)**



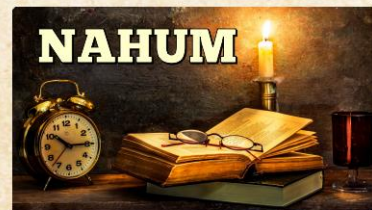
# 3 CHARGES OR REASONS AGAINST NINEVEH



**1 Full of lies and robbery (Na.3:1)**

**2 Multitude of Harlotries (Na.3:4)**

**3 Nineveh had not learned from No Amon or Thebes (Na.3:8-10)**



**Ethiopia and Egypt were  
her strength, And it was  
boundless; Put and Lubim  
were your helpers.**

**NAHUM 3:9**





**“Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, And it was boundless; Put and Lubim were your helpers.” (Na.3:9)**

- No Amon was well protected on all sides, nestled between lower Egypt on the north and Ethiopia on the south.**
- Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, says that Put, the third son of Ham (Ge.10:6), was the founder of Libya.**
- Lubim has been identified with the area of modern Libya as well.**
- The ally border nations around Thebes combined was unable to defend her against Assyria.**







**Yet she was carried away, She  
went into captivity; Her young  
children also were dashed to  
pieces At the head of every  
street; They cast lots for her  
honorable men, And all her great  
men were bound in chains.**

**NAHUM 3:10**





**“Yet she was carried away, She went into captivity; Her young children also were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound in chains.” (Na.3:10)**

- Assyrian records describe in detail the conquest of Thebes. Most of the people of Thebes were taken into exile.**
- Thebes and Assyria put their trust in alliances and military power, but history would show that these were inadequate.**
- Don't insist on learning through personal experience; instead, learn the lessons history has already taught. Put your trust in God above all else.**
- Rather than taking Thebian infants into captivity, the Assyrians ruthlessly massacred them (Ho.13:16).**



**You also will be drunk;  
You will be hidden; You  
also will seek refuge  
from the enemy.**

**NAHUM 3:11**





**“You also will be drunk; You will be hidden; You also will seek refuge from the enemy.” (Na.3:11)**

- We are like the Ninevites (“You also”). We see empires and nations judged in our own day and in history, just like the Assyrians saw Thebes destroyed.**
- As predicted (Na.1:10), Nineveh would be made to drink of God's wrath, making her drunk and defenseless to His judgment.**
- Yet we, like the Ninevites, somehow think that we will be spared, despite our sinful arrogance and rebellion.**





**NINEVEH'S  
EFFORTS  
ARE USELESS**

**(Nahum 3:12-19)**

**All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs: If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater.**

**NAHUM 3:12**





**“All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs: If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater.”  
(Na.3:12)**

- As easily as ripe fruit falls from a shaken tree, so will the strongholds of Nineveh fall before the judgment of God.**
- We often have our strongholds of sin and pride that we need to shake from our lives.**
- Nahum used a series of metaphors to emphasize that Nineveh's strong defenses would be easily overrun.**
- Their walls would be like ripe fruit that falls at the slightest shaking.**



**Surely, your people in your  
midst are women! The gates of  
your land are wide open for  
your enemies; Fire shall devour  
the bars of your gates.**

**NAHUM 3:13**







**“Surely, your people in your midst are women! The gates of your land are wide open for your enemies; Fire shall devour the bars of your gates.” (Na.3:13)**

- Archaeologists document the burning of Nineveh from large deposits of ash.**
- Nineveh's battle forces would be like weak women not qualified for military service.**
- The “bars” are the fasteners of the gates which shall be destroyed by fire giving access to the city.**



**Draw your water for the siege!  
Fortify your strongholds! Go  
into the clay and tread the  
mortar! Make strong the brick  
kiln!**

**NAHUM 3:14**





**“Draw your water for the siege! Fortify your strongholds!  
Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Make strong the  
brick kiln!” (Na.3:14)**



- The actions detailed here are those of a city preparing to resist a siege.**
- They can prepare as many provisions and people they please, but it will all come to nothing against the judgment of God.**
- Nahum practically mocks the people of Nineveh, cheering them on to do the best they can in light of the coming judgment.**



**There the fire will devour you,  
The sword will cut you off; It will  
eat you up like a locust. Make  
yourself many—like the locust!  
Make yourself many— like the  
swarming locusts!**

**NAHUM 3:15**





**“There the fire will devour you, The sword will cut you off; It will eat you up like a locust. Make yourself many—like the locust! Make yourself many— like the swarming locusts!” (Na.3:15)**

- As the locust leaves nothing, stripping all the foliage, so there would be nothing left of Nineveh (Am.7:1).**
- When those defense efforts would prove futile, then disaster would strike with fire and sword.**
- Nahum’s command to multiply like grasshoppers and like locusts may be directed to the Ninevites to increase their numbers (as if they could!) to defend themselves more adequately.**



**You have multiplied your  
merchants more than the  
stars of heaven. The locust  
plunders and flies away.**

**NAHUM 3:16**





**“You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.” (Na.3:16)**

- **“Merchants” (3:16); “commanders” (3:17); “generals” (3:17); “shepherds” (3:18); “nobles” (3:18). Each of these classes of leaders were numerous in Nineveh, but they all would be ineffective and come to nothing in the day of judgment.**
- **The city had increased its wealth by commercial trading with numberless merchants, but they would become like countless locusts stripping the land of its vegetation.**
- **Nineveh had multiplied her merchants, bringing immense wealth, which only provides more to destroy.**





**Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known.**

**NAHUM 3:17**







**“ Your commanders are like swarming locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they are is not known.” (Na.3:17)**

- The soldiers were like grasshoppers, consuming and destroying entire crops for miles.**
- In the cool of the evening, locusts settle on walls but when the warmth of the sun comes in the morning, they fly away. Similarly, in panic the guards on the walls would also suddenly vanish.**
- The subject is the utter defeat of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, with not a possibility of a “come-back.”**



**Your shepherds slumber, O king  
of Assyria; Your nobles rest in  
the dust. Your people are  
scattered on the mountains,  
And no one gathers them.**

**NAHUM 3:18**





**“Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria; Your nobles rest in the dust. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them.” (Na.3:18)**

- This is likely addressed to King Ashur-uballit (612-609 B.C.) who tried to hold together the Assyrian Empire in the city of Haran, until it finally crumbled completely in 609 B.C..**
- In surveying his devastated empire, he would realize that his leaders (shepherds and nobles) were dead.**
- The people who were not taken as captives were scattered, never again to be gathered.**



**Your injury has no healing, Your  
wound is severe. All who hear  
news of you Will clap their hands  
over you, For upon whom has not  
your wickedness passed  
continually?**

**NAHUM 3:19**





**“Your injury has no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you, For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?” (Na.3:19)**

- Nahum ends his prophecy with a view of the righteous and God’s triumph over the unrighteous.**
- Because Nineveh was so known for its violence and cruelty, no wonder Nahum sees the nations applauding when the city is judged and destroyed.**
- We don’t need to envy the unrighteous or seek vengeance against them ourselves.**



# 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)**

## **LAST VERSE: QUESTION**

Proclaims God's **COMPASSION**

“And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”

**(Jonah 4:11)**

## **LAST VERSE: QUESTION**

Proclaims God's **JUSTICE**

“Your injury has no healing,  
Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap their hands over you,  
For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?”

**(Nahum 3:19)**

**BOTH BOOKS REVEAL A DEPTH OF THE CHARACTER OF GOD**



# Nahum 2-3