

NAHUM

The Judgment Of Nineveh

3/7/10 PM

Nahum

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Facts on Nahum

- Author: Nahum means Comfort
- Date: 663 - 612 BC
- Purpose: Comfort of Israel
- Theme: Divine judgment

Nahum has been called Jonah's favorite book.

It contains the message of judgment Jonah wanted to preach.

Nahum wrote over 100 years after Jonah.

Though the Ninevites had repented under Jonah, they had not successfully transmitted their message of the true God to their children and grandchildren.

The nation had returned to their cruel and idolatrous practices.

Since the time of Jonah they had captured Israel in 722 BC and dispersed the 10 tribes throughout their empire.

They had also attacked Judah and nearly captured Jerusalem in 701 BC.



Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire.

It was rich, powerful, and arrogant

It was also one of the most cruel, vile, and idolatrous nations in history.

They were finally defeated by a coalition of the Medes, Babylonians, and Scythians in 612 BC.

1. Destruction Decreed 1:1-15

a. The wrath of God vv. 1-8

2 Jealous- There is a selfish type of jealousy and a protective type of jealousy.

God is protective of those who belong to Him.

Avenging- God pursues justice

He sets things right for those who belong to Him.

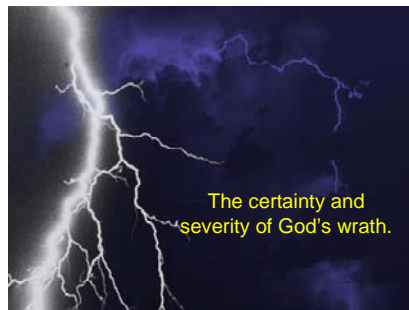
Only God is to avenge. Cf Romans 12:17-21

Wrathful- God hates sin and injustice

God will righteously judge the wicked.

3 Slow to anger and great in power

He is slow to anger but He will punish the guilty



Whirlwind- Some hurricanes are 400 miles in diameter and have winds of 200 mph

Lifts 60+ tons of water

More power every 10 seconds than our country uses in a year.

Storm- 360,000 lightening flashes every hour

One bolt of lightening would keep your house in electricity for 35 years

4 He dries up rivers and sea

The Red Sea and the Jordan River during the Exodus

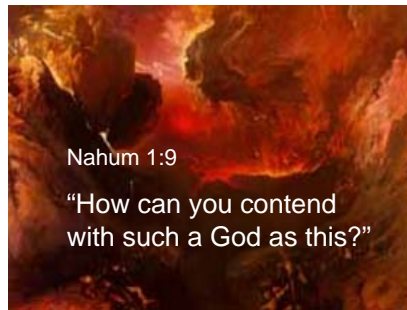
He also brings draughts

5-6 He brings earthquakes and volcanoes

One strong earthquake unleashes more energy than 1000 nuclear bombs set off simultaneously.

When Mount St. Helen's erupted more earth was moved one second than man has excavated in all of history.

7-8 God is good to those who take refuge in Him, but an overflowing flood to those who are His enemies.



b. The God of wrath vv. 9-14

No amount of plotting will overcome God

No amount of power can resist God

No idol can stand against God.

Historical fulfillment

1:8 An unusually heavy flood caused the Tigris and Koser rivers to carry away a huge section of the city wall and allow Assyria's enemies to enter.

1:9-14 Many ancient cities have been destroyed and rebuilt.

But Nineveh was not even located for 2,500 years (1842)

1:10 cf Bible Knowledge Commentary # 4, 6

1:14 cf Bible Knowledge Commentary #11

c. The refuge of God v. 15

Cf vv. 3, 7, 12-13 God gives parentheses of reassurance to Judah

God is our only true refuge and security

Not money or military power

God's righteousness brings comfort.

God's power brings security

God's promises bring hope

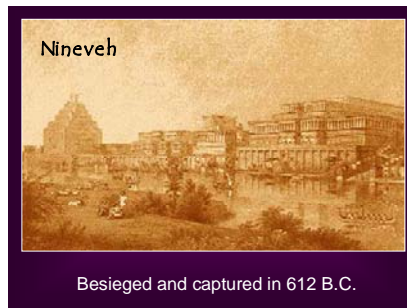
God's righteousness brings fear

God's love brings forgiveness and acceptance.

2. Destruction Described Nahum 2:1-13

a. The attack vv. 1-5

b. The defeat vv. 6-13



9 According to the Babylonian Chronicle: “Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [the turned] into a mound and a ruin heap.”

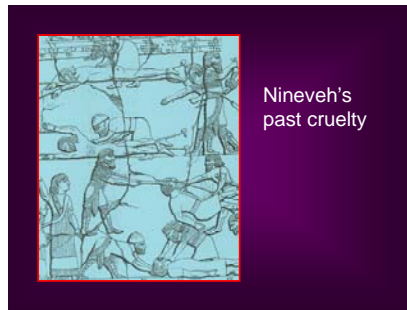
11 -12 The lion was the symbol of the king

3. Destruction Deserved 3:1-19

a. Their wickedness is described. vv. 1-7

1 Lies and pillage- broken treatise and almost uninterrupted warfare

2-3 Violence and bloodshed



4 soccer

Fortune-telling and omens

Bird and animal movements, Clouds, Dreams, Livers, Tea leaves, Stars, Wine, etc

Hundreds of incantations used to put spells on others

5-7 Their shame is exposed

b. Their judgment is certain. vv. 8-10

They are no more secure than No-amon (Thebes) whom they conquered in 663 BC.

c. Their conquest is easy. vv. 11-19

11 In the final hours they were drunk. cf 1:10

Diodorus Siculus ca. 20 BC) 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." (*Bibliotheca Historica* 2. 26. 4)

- 12 The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured.
- 13 The city gates would be destroyed.
- 14 They would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls
- 15 The city would be destroyed by fire
- 17 The officers would weaken and flee



Lessons for Living

1. God will fulfill His prophecies.
2. God is in control of the future.

He can use natural or supernatural means.

Floods, draughts, earthquakes, diseases, etc.

3. God will both judge sin and deliver His people.