

Outline of Nahum

- 1 Verdict Decried
- 2 Vision Described
- 3 Verdict Deserved

Author

Nahum means “comfort” which is what his prophecies were to Judah in the midst of Assyrian oppressions. Nahum only occurs here in this book in the entire Old Testament. The book was written between 663 and 612BC. He prophesied during the height of the Assyrian empire. Historically, one should read the book of Nahum in the light of Jonah.

Summary

Nahum was a Jewish prophet who wrote to comfort the Jewish people (1:12,15; 2:2) though his prophecies were pointed toward Nineveh. His prophecy against the city of Nineveh was significant for the people of Judah. They needed encouragement in the face of the terrifying power of the Assyrian Empire. The remnant facing an increasing idolatrous Judah would have been comforted by declarations of God's slowness to anger (1:3), goodness and strength (1:7), and restorative power (2:2). Nahum lived in a dark time where the faithful few wondered how long they would be able to resist the cultural and spiritual compromise. Nahum's unique picture of the wrath of God begins with

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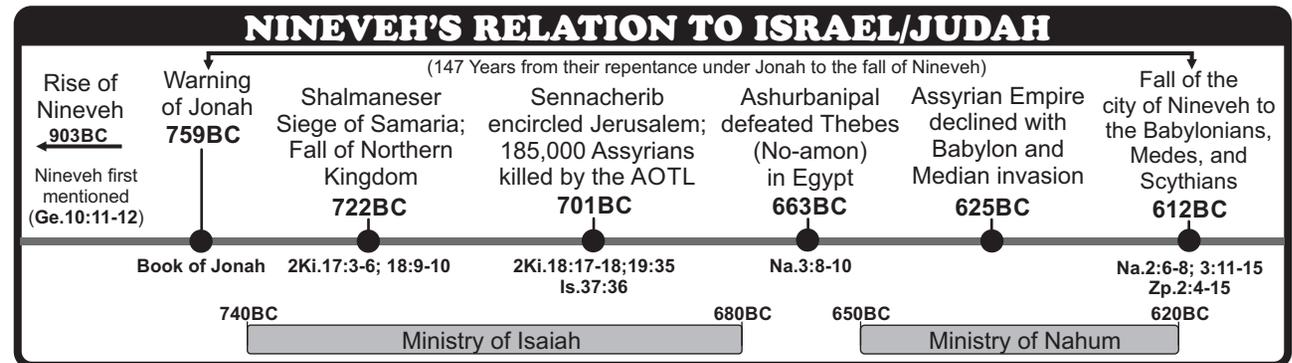
The judgment of Nineveh and the comfort of Judah both reveal the sovereignty, righteousness, and grace of Yahweh. God's discriminating anger and vengeance against pride and cruelty arise from His great love.

his vision by painting an angry God (1:2). This aspect of God's character may not be popular, but it is prominent in Scripture. Nahum teaches the reader that to believe in God's love is to be sure of His wrath. If God is never angry, He does not love. His anger grows out of His love. God is always just. He will not punish the innocent with the guilty. Nahum said, “The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth

Sennacherib's soldiers were killed overnight by the Angel of the Lord. He returned home to Nineveh (2Ki.18:17-18; 19:32-36; Is.37:36). Nineveh fell to a combined force of Medes, Babylonians, and Scythians. Years earlier God had granted repentance to Nineveh at the preaching of Jonah. But Nineveh returned to their bullish ways, conquering the northern kingdom of Israel, and lording

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them that trust in him.” Nahum was followed by Zephaniah, who also predicted the destruction of Nineveh (Zp.2:4-15). The Assyrian empire came to an end, and has never been rebuilt to this day. Shalmaneser V (727-722BC) besieged Samaria and defeated it (722BC), which defeated the Northern Kingdom (2Ki.17:3-6; 18:9-10). Sennacherib (705-681BC), invaded Judah and destroyed 46 Judean towns and cities. After encircling Jerusalem, 185,000 of

their power over Judah (2Ki.17:1-6; 18:13-19:37).



CHRIST IN NAHUM

- Jehovah, in the Person of Christ, is the Just Judge of Nineveh (1:14; 2:13; 3:5), and the stronghold for those that trust in Him (1:7).