

# Nahum

Synthetic reading  
2008291630

## The Other Prophecy against Nineveh

Nahum was a prophet apparently from the southern kingdom of Judah who, uncharacteristically of prophets, did not prophesy either to Judah nor to Israel. Instead Nahum prophesied destruction against Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria, which of course was the nation responsible for the virtual destruction of the northern kingdom of Israel. Assyria rose to be a national superpower and earned a reputation for a violent, colonizing, and destructive militarism that aroused trepidation and terror from Asia to Arabia to Africa, Of course, this included Israel and Judah.

Assyria was so arrogant and so aggressive that they conquered and oppressed many surrounding nations. When God used the Assyrians to bring judgement on Israel, the southern kingdom of Judah may have been fearful for their future or may have wondered if they were the next target of this impressively oppressive juggernaut. It is in this context that Nahum prophesied God's judgement declaring the destruction of this national superpower at the hands of a supernatural Sovereign Who has all power!

Nahum starts with poetic vividness describing God, the Lord whose goodness inspires devotion and whose greatness inspires dread (1:1-8)! Then Nahum announces that the unstoppable Assyria would be stopped by the original avenger, the God of Creation!

Rev. White's reading notes  
based on synthetic reading of the book

Assyria's militarism and sexism make them look powerful and unbreakable externally. However, these same characteristics actually were evidence of the internal disease of idolatry. Assyria trusted in their military and their might more than they trusted in God.

Regrettably, any people or nation that prioritizes anything more than God will eventually show presenting symptoms of injustice (3:1). This idolatry disease threatened the heart of the Assyrian nation with cardiac arrest as well as a pulmonary embolism against their body politic. Assyria's acts of injustice towards people may have been symptoms of a deeper disease, but these acts also were additional reasons that God would bring upon them judgement and destruction.

Nahum was yet another prophet who demonstrated that God is not only the God of Israel and not only the God of Judah, but also that the God of Creation is the God of the whole world, the God of all nations and the God of all creation. This God holds even Nineveh accountable for operating in injustice. The Divine Judge of all the earth is the God of justice!

Additionally, Nahum, whose name means *comforter*, may have brought comfort to Judah by this prophesy. It revealed that the same God who used Assyria as an instrument to judge Israel for their injustices and for the covenant violations of the northern kingdom was also able to judge the very instrument of God's judgement (i.e., Assyria). Don't be deceived! Don't get it twisted! Nineveh and Assyria *were used by God* to execute judgement against others, but Nineveh and Assyria *were not excused by God* from being judged themselves for their own idolatry, their own injustices, or their own crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, it's helpful for us today to remember that the God who judged injustice in Nahum's day continues to judge injustice in every age! Even when God uses us, that doesn't mean God excuses us!