

**Nahum 2:1-10**  
**The Vision of Nineveh's Demise**  
**September 30, 2007**

**I. Description of the Battle**

**A. Eyewitness account**

1. powerful images, flesh and blood reality
2. the certainty of his vision

*Tremper Longman III: "Although he wrote these words years before the event, it is as if he were there. The vision imparts to the reader a feeling of certainty that what it depicts will be fulfilled. God has allowed the prophet to see the demise of Nineveh in vivid detail. There is no doubt that this event will take place."*

3. confusion of battle (vv. 4-5)

**B. Why does Nahum use such vivid imagery?**

1. express the certainty of Nineveh's destruction – credibility

*O. Palmer Robertson: "The destruction of the wicked city is so certain that the prophet may use all the powers of his descriptive imagination to depict the certainty of the city's fall."*

2. confirm the faith of the Israelites

*John Calvin: "Now this accumulation of words was by no means in vain; for it was necessary to confirm, by many words, the faith of the Israelites and of the Jews respecting the near approach of the destruction of the city Nineveh, which would have been otherwise incredible"*

**C. Remember the gospel context**

1. not just any battle – good news (1:15)
2. restoration of covenant people (2:2)
3. coming of the scatterer (2:1)

*Jeremiah 51:19-20 <sup>19</sup>Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. <sup>20</sup>"You are my hammer and weapon of war: with you I break nations in pieces; with you I destroy kingdoms;*

**II. Preparation for Battle (vv. 1, 3-5)**

**A. Irony and sarcasm (v. 1)**

**B. The approaching army (v. 3)**

1. the army of the scatterer – his mighty men, his soldiers, his day
2. the brilliance of the army – red, scarlet, fire of chariot

*Ezekiel 23:14-15 <sup>14</sup>But she carried her whoring further. She saw men portrayed on the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion, <sup>15</sup>wearing belts on their waists, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them having the appearance of officers, a likeness of Babylonians whose native land was Chaldea.*

**C. Chaos and panic of battle (vv. 4-5)**

1. race madly, rush to and fro
2. gleam like torches, dart like lightning
3. panic of the king and his officers
4. foreboding tone → no escape

### III. **The Complete Destruction of Nineveh (vv. 6-10)**

#### A. **Strongholds of Nineveh destroyed (vv. 6-8)**

1. the breach of the Tigris River – strongest defense (v. 6a)
2. the melting of the palace (v. 6b)
  - a. image of God's judgment (1:5)
  - b. devastation of the king (1:14)
  - c. the last fortress destroyed
3. the victory parade (v. 7)
  - a. the stripping and carrying off of the mistress
  - b. the moaning of the servant girls (Isa. 38:14; 59:11)
4. Nineveh's waters run away
  - a. helpless cries – none turns back
  - b. contrast to God's powerful voice (1:4)
  - c. make no mistake, God is the One who dries up the pool

#### B. **The plunderer plundered (v. 9) – more sarcastic irony**

1. Nineveh, the plunderer of Jacob (v. 2b)
2. no end of the treasure
  - a. dead bodies without end (3:3)
  - b. strength without limit (3:9)
  - c. plunder the nations (3:16)
3. plundered by the scatterer – just desserts

#### C. **Total destruction**

1. Destroyed! Destruction! Decimation!  
*O. Palmer Robertson: "Conveys the pounding rhythm of devastation accomplished by the invasion."*
2. once proud city brought to her knees
  - a. began with four imperatives – call to battle (v. 1)
  - b. end with four signs of defeat

### IV. **Application**

#### A. **Warning concerning the judgment of God**

1. God still displays his wrath and power
2. the day the scatterer musters them (v. 3)
3. the greater day of judgment  
*Acts 17:30-31* <sup>30</sup> *The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,* <sup>31</sup> *because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*
4. Sermon title: The Enemy You Don't Want to Have

#### B. **Hope for oppressed and abused – God's covenant faithfulness**

1. Nahum = comforting, full of comfort
2. plundered and ruined (v. 2b)
3. majesty restored (v. 2a)
4. God also restores you by delivering you from misery and death through Christ  
*Romans 5:17* <sup>17</sup> *If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*