

1. The title verse of Nahum identifies its contents as an “burden/oracle,” a “book,” and a “vision.”
2. The name “Nahum” speaks of comfort and fits the message of the prophet. His message of the coming destruction of Nineveh provided comfort for the people of Judah.
3. Apart from his name and his hometown (Elkosh), we know nothing about the prophet Nahum.
4. Nineveh served as the capital of Assyria, which had dominated the ancient Near East for a century.
5. The armies of Assyria, with their ruthless methods, struck fear in the lives of the people of the time.
6. Nineveh’s destruction would make the people of the world clap their hands (Nah 3:19). The people of Israel and Judah suffered from the constant attacks of the Assyrians.
7. Jonah rebelled against going to Nineveh to preach repentance because of their aggression. He and many others wanted Nineveh judged instead of forgiven.
8. Nahum’s “book” encouraged Judah. God delivers the oppressed; he punishes the oppressor.
9. Nahum’s message brought hope to a people without hope, announcing the victory of the Lord over the wicked ones.
10. Nahum’s message demonstrates that God is also the God of history. He works His will in the world in His own way and according to His own time.
11. For our world today - the message of Nahum is timely. God is at work. The forces of evil will not conquer all.
12. The greatest question of human history involves knowing God. Who is God? What is He like? In various ways the prophets sought to answer these questions.
13. Isaiah spoke of the Lord as the sovereign Lord of the universe, the holy Creator God who is incomparable in the heavens. (Isaiah 40:9–26)
14. Nahum described God as slow to anger yet He judges the guilty.
15. In every age and against every oppressor, the Lord is a jealous and avenging God. All those who oppose the Lord receive the brunt of his wrath. (Joshua 24:19)
16. Much of Nahum’s message beginning in chapter 1:2-6 fits the description of the Lord throughout Israel’s history.
17. The description of God as slow to anger and not leaving the guilty unpunished occurs throughout the Old Testament. (Nehemiah 9:17)
18. The first two verses of Nahum’s message set the tone for the entire book. The book emphasizes the destruction of Nineveh, but it also stresses hope for God’s people.

19. Nahum based his hope on the presence of God in the world. The Ninevites would be removed because of the sovereignty of God.
20. The God who is slow to anger and great in power will not leave his people. He will provide for their needs.
21. Both the people of Judah and the people of Assyria are his people. He maintains sovereignty over the earth.
23. Therefore God brings judgment over the oppressor whether in Israel or in Assyria.
24. This power belongs to God and to no one else. God had often displayed that power. (Job 26:12; Psalm 65:6; 2 Chronicles 20:6; Jeremiah 10:12, 27:5)
25. Now Nahum says that God is going to prove that to Assyria. In so doing he will also prove it to his own people one more time. (Nahum 2)
26. For more than a hundred years (since the time of King Tiglath-pileser III) Nineveh and the entire Assyrian civilization lived on the plundering of the nations by its armies.
27. Though Nineveh had lived in relative security and wealth (Nah 2:11-12), God vowed to end the reign of the oppressor.
28. The last 2 verses of chapter 3 are addressed to the king of Assyria. The time had come in which "the offer of mercy must be superseded by divine judgment."
29. We must never forget that the whole Book of Nahum is a celebration of divine, not human, action. Nahum leaves vengeance in the hands of God. So, must we.
30. We are not only "to resist evil, not only to correct it, but sometimes we will suffer through it, confident in the assurance that God will finally cleanse this earth of all corruption."

Then for us Nahum becomes more than anything else a great call to repentance!