

## **Nahum: masterfully poetic comfort about the end of evil!** Minor Prophets Dec. 3, 2023

**Main point:** God's people are comforted when "*He takes vengeance on His adversaries!*" (1:2)

**Summary of the Book of Nahum:** Remember Jonah? He preached in Nineveh, and the city repented and was spared. One hundred years later, along comes our seventh minor prophet 'God theater' presentation of 'Nahum.' Assyria, with its capital city of Nineveh, had become the most cruel and ruthless nation in the ancient world. We find our theme of 'judgment unto restoration' when God's justice compels Him to bring down the oppressive nation Assyria, for the sake of the innocent. Nahum 1:7, "*The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.*" (see also 1:15, where the Lord, through Nahum "...brings good news...")

### **The man Nahum and the times in which he was living and writing:**

- His name: Nahum means "comfort/compassion," but a stern message to Assyria!
  - His background: he came from a town called Elkosh. (1:1)
  - His times: 7<sup>th</sup> Century BC. The focus is God's judgment on Assyria.
    - o Assyria strengthened in power and size for 100 years under these Kings:
      - Tiglath-pileser (745-727 BC)
      - Shalmaneser V (726-722 BC)
      - Sargon II (721-705 BC)
      - Sennacherib (704-681 BC)
      - Esarhaddon (680-669 BC)
      - Assurbanipal (668-627 BC) captured Thebes, Egypt 664 BC (see 3:8)
    - o (see 1:12), Assyria "*at full strength and many*" (started declining in 630BC)
- Esarhaddon wanted son#1 Assurbanipal as K. of Assyria, son#2 Smas-sum-ukin K of Babylon. One brother was under a brother! Worked okay for 10 yrs, then civil war 652BC. Assurbanipal won, but at a heavy cost. Then, King Assurbanipal began to decline.
- o (see 3:7), Assyria's capital city of Nineveh (eventually, Babylon revolted again against Assyria's control, and won independency by destroying Assyria's capital city of Nineveh! (with help from Medes) in 612BC.
  - o Nahum likely prophesied between 652 BC (the civil war) and 626 BC, which was Babylon revolt #2, when they pulled away from Assyria's control.

### **Outline of Nahum:**

Nahum 1:1, introduction

Nahum 1:2-8, Victory Hymn: God the Warrior Judges Evil, Saves His People!

Nahum 1:9-2:2, Two Intertwined Messages: Woe to Wicked, Rescue for Mine!

Nahum 2:3-10, Nineveh: Future Woe Vision of Capture and Plunder!

Nahum 2:11-13, Nineveh the Lion? Powerless Before God

Nahum 3:1-3, Nineveh: 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Woe Vision of Blood and Bodies!

Nahum 3:4-7, Nineveh's Satanism/Whoredom: Holy God Responds

Nahum 3:8-10, Nineveh: Fate like that of Thebes, Egypt.

Nahum 3:11-15c, Nineveh: God Judges/Mocks

Nahum 3:15d-17, Nineveh: God Judges/Mocks with Locusts

Nahum 3:18-19, Nineveh: Final Scene of Utter Defeat

**NT significance of Nahum:** Christ's death & resurrection are God's ultimate warfare

God comforts us by the fall of Satan and His cohorts. Col. 2:14-15, Rev. 19:11-21