

## OVERVIEW OF BOOK OF NAHUM – WHEN GOD IS YOUR ENEMY

### INTRODUCTION

God's people have the privilege and security of **having God on our side** – Paul reminded the Romans of this in **8:31-39**

*“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us?**”<sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?<sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;<sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?<sup>36</sup> Just as it is written, ‘For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’<sup>37</sup> But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,<sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Imagine reframing this passage from the opposite perspective:

*“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is against us, what hope do we have?**”*

Yet this is the position of the city of Nineveh as Nahum comes to declare God's judgment. How awful to be in the opposite camp – **where God is against you** – opposing you as your declared enemy.

**The Book of Nahum is God's sobering reminder that His patience and longsuffering are not weakness, His warnings are not empty, and His justice—though delayed—is absolutely certain.**

Nineveh had once repented under Jonah 100 years ago.. But now that revival was in the rearview mirror. The Assyrian empire was arrogant again—violent, brutal, self-exalting, and hostile to God's people. They assumed judgment would never fall... certainly they had avoided it so far.

But **Nahum** declares: **The God who saves those who repent is also the God who judges those who persist in wickedness.**

And His judgment is not rash—but righteous, sovereign, and certain.

### OVERVIEW

The Book of Nahum presents a sobering graphical depiction of the unleashing of God's wrath against the wickedness of Nineveh.. His message proved to be a **comfort** for God's people who had suffered much abuse from the cruel Assyrians.

The historical outworking of the details of this prophecy demonstrate once again the authenticity of the Word of God. There are amazingly specific prophecies in this book about future events.

Nineveh ended up being destroyed in the exact fashion described and forgotten about for centuries, despite her place of prominence in the ancient world.

### **BIG IDEA**

THE COMFORTING EXAMPLE OF NINEVEH [comforting to Judah]: WHEN YOUR ENEMIES HAVE GOD AS THEIR ENEMY, HIS WRATH BRINGS SWIFT AND TERRIBLE HUMILIATION AND DEVASTATION

**Key Verse:** Nahum 2:13; 3:5 “*Behold, I am against you*”

I wonder what Jonah thought about the commission Nahum received from the Lord. This was the message and result that Jonah had desired to deliver. In fact in the LXX, you find this book of Nahum coming right after Jonah as a sort of sequel. You don’t see the Lord warning Nahum to have a merciful spirit towards Judah’s hated enemy. Nahum didn’t have to spend any sleepless nights in the belly of the great fish. NO -- the time for God’s wrath had arrived. The Lord’s longsuffering with this savage nation had come to an end. Jonah must have been shaking his head, thinking that he had gotten the short end of the stick.

**Who was this prophet Nahum?** Not much is known about him. Apparently he came from the city of **Elkosh** (called an Elkoshite) – probably in southern Judah – but the location is unclear. His name means *Comfort* or *Consolation* – not directed to the Assyrians but to his fellow countrymen from Judah.

**1:1** “*The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.*”

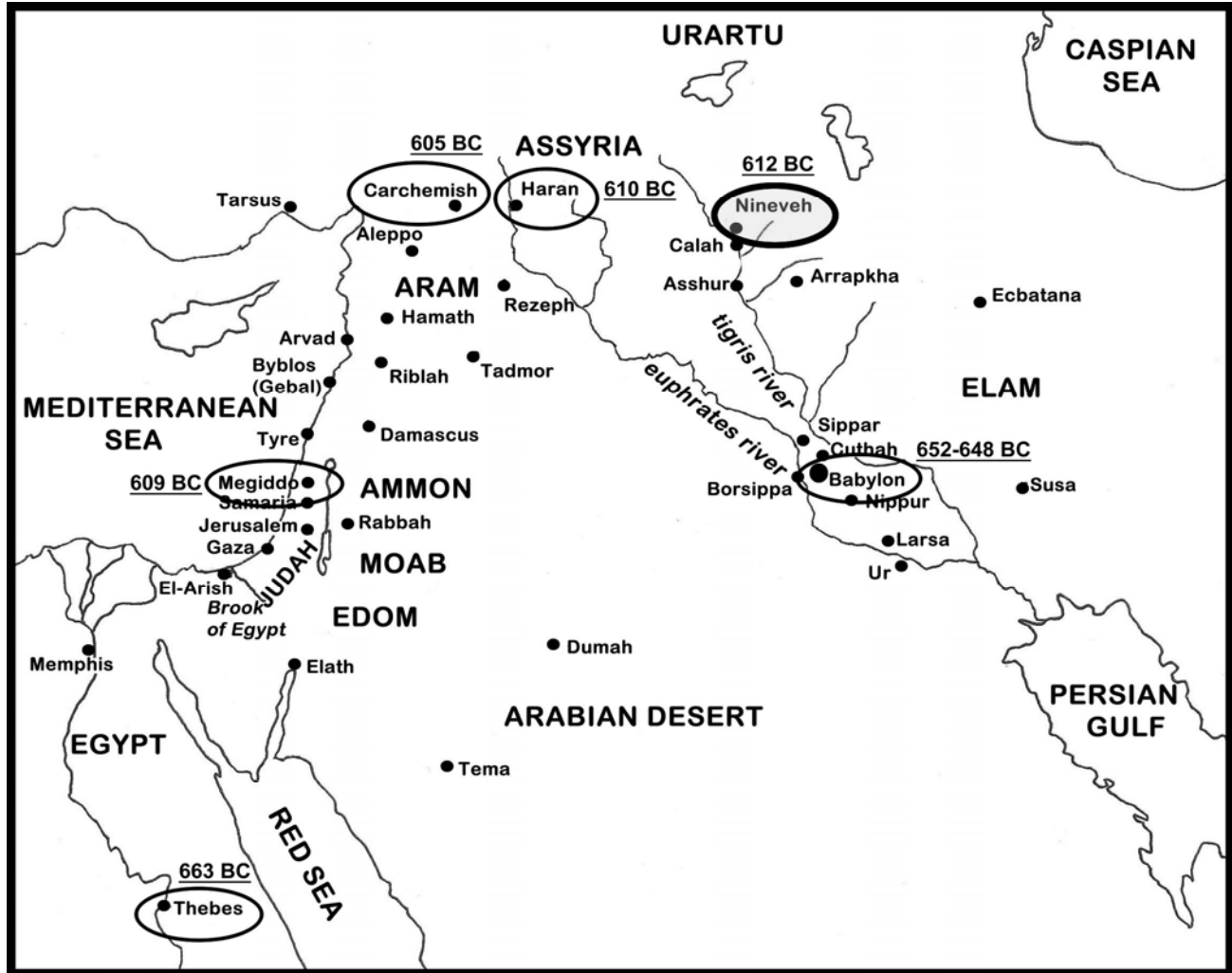
But we can have some certainty about the Date of Writing. In **3:8** there is a reference to the city of No-amon which we know to be **Thebes**, the great capital of southern Egypt. Since it was destroyed in 663 BC, this book had to have been written after that time. The other parameter would be the fall of Nineveh which occurred in 612 BC. So that gives an initial range of 663-612 BC. Other factors help to narrow the range even more:

- No kings are referenced as reigning over Judah – so it is conjectured that since Manassah was so wicked, he was omitted – reigning from **686-642 BC**.
- In addition, Assyria started to decline in power from **633 BC** onward

Perhaps our best guess places the date of writing around **650 BC**.

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Generation Word:



### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: Bill McRae

760-750 BC – prophecy of Jonah; repentance of Nineveh

732 BC – **Isaiah 7:1** – “Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram [Syria] and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of **Israel**, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it.”

Remember: there were 2 strong world powers at the time: **Assyria** and **Egypt**. Babylon had not yet risen to prominence.

Rezin and Pekah (Syria and Damascus) decided they needed to protect themselves against Assyria – we need some other countries to ally with us – but Judah refused; Ahaz told not to do it; they come down and besieged Jerusalem – Ahaz chickened out and sent a bribe to Assyria to protect Judah; so they arrived in 732 to rescue Judah from this threat; Rezin is killed, Syria is destroyed and several of the tribes of northern Israel are carried off.

722 BC -- Ten years later there is another insurrection in Israel when they were feeling their oats and cut off paying their tribute to Assyria; this time when Assyria invaded they completely devastated Israel. They dispersed people and mixed them into different cultures. Ten lost tribes went into captivity never to return. No more northern kingdom after that.

669-627 BC -- Time of the famous Assyrian ruler **Ashurbaniphal**. Remembered as the last great king of Assyria. Brought Assyria to the height of their prestige. Excavations at Nineveh (modern-day Mosul, Iraq) uncovered massive walls, canals, and the impressive royal library—evidence of wealth and sophistication.

663 BC -- Ashurbaniphal went down to Egypt – to attack them – **Memphis** and **Thebes** fall at this time – **3:8**

Under Ashurbanipal, Assyria seemed invincible; Nahum's vision lands in this time of tension—Assyria's outward might versus God's pronouncement of its end.

Soon after his death in 627 BC - internal strife, Babylonian rebellion, and Median pressure weakened the empire. Then Nineveh fell in 612 BC.

The Assyrians deserved God's judgment -- extremely savage in their treatment of war captives – made pyramids of the heads of their victims; they would tear limbs off; gouge out their eyes; skin them and display their skins; impale them on poles to display their heads – delighted in these atrocities

## STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK:

**Robert Chisholm:** [Chisholm sees a chiasmic structure in **1:12 - 3:19** with an introduction and conclusion which form an inclusio around **2:1 - 3:17**]

Introduction: Judah urged to celebrate the demise of Assyria and its king **1:12-15**

A Call to alarm **2:1-10**

B Taunt **2:11-12**

C Announcement of Judgment **2:13**

**D Woe Oracle 3:1-4**

C' Announcement of Judgment **3:5-7**

B' Taunt **3:8-13**

A' Call to alarm **3:14**

Conclusion: All who hear of the demise of Assyria and its king celebrate **3:18-19**

In **2:1 - 3:17** four types of speeches are employed in a detailed description of Assyria's demise.

- In the calls to alarm (**2:1-10; 3:14-17**) the prophet assumes for poetic purposes the role of a watchman on the walls of Nineveh. He excitedly calls upon the city's inhabitants to prepare for an enemy attack, the details of which he then vividly describes.
- The taunts (**2:13-13; 3:8-13**), which are introduced by **rhetorical questions**, allude in a derogatory way to Nineveh's pride.

- The judgment announcements (2:13; 3:5-7), which include a series of pronouncements by God Himself, are introduced by the formula "*I am against you," declares the Lord Almighty.*"
- Finally, the woe oracle (3:1-4), which is highlighted by its **central position** in the chiasmus, summarizes the reasons for judgment (vv. 1, 4) and provides a vivid description of Nineveh's destruction (vv. 2-3).

## **MY OUTLINE:**

### **Chap. 1 -- THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S JUDGMENT -- ITS INTENSITY AND FINALITY**

### **Chap. 2 -- THE CATASTROPHE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT -- SWIFT AND TERRIFYING**

### **Chap. 3 -- THE CAUSE OF GOD'S JUDGMENT -- DESERVED AND UNAVOIDABLE**

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### **Chap. 1 -- THE CHARACTER OF GOD'S JUDGMENT -- ITS INTENSITY AND FINALITY**

### **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE AWESOME ALL-CONSUMING WRATH OF THE ANGRY AVENGING GOD (WHO PROVIDES SECURITY ONLY TO HIS OWN PEOPLE)**

Make no mistake – the day of judgment is coming for the wicked. The proud Assyrians may have presumed that God was ignoring their unrighteousness (especially since God was actually using them as an instrument to temporarily discipline His own people), but the awesome all-consuming wrath of the angry avenging God was hanging over their heads about to be poured out on them in His timing. There would be no chance to escape or rise back up. God's destruction would be intense and complete.

#### **How Do People Tend to Minimize or Underestimate God's Wrath?**

- Falsely dismissing wrath as an attribute only of the God of the OT
- Proudly imagining themselves to be untouchable and secure
- Confusing what seems like Delay in timeframe (from man's perspective) with Avoidance (as if God will not carry out His promises)
- Assuming that there will always be opportunity to repent

### **I. (:2-6) DESCRIPTION OF THE INTENSITY OF GOD'S AWESOME WRATH – WHO CAN ENDURE THE BURNING OF HIS ANGER?**

#### **A. (:2-3A) Intensity of God's Awesome Wrath **Consistent With His Character** --**

If we're going to understand the fall of Nineveh, we must begin where Nahum begins—not with the sin of man, but with the **character of God**.

### 1. (:2) Avenging and Wrathful

#### a. Passionate in the Execution of Vengeance

*“A jealous and avenging God is the Lord;*

*The Lord is avenging and wrathful.”*

God Is **Jealous** -- His Passion Is Exclusive

Not petty jealousy, but holy, covenant-protecting zeal. God defends His name and His people.

#### b. Purposeful in the Execution of Vengeance

##### 1) Purposeful in His Targets

*“The Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries,”*

##### 2) Purposeful in His Timing

*“And He reserves wrath for His enemies.”*

### 2. (:3A) Patient, Powerful, Punishing

#### a. Patient

*“The Lord is slow to anger”*

#### b. Powerful

*“and great in power”*

#### c. Punishing

*“And the Lord will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.”*

- *“The LORD is slow to anger”*—that is **grace**.
- *“The LORD will by no means leave the guilty unpunished”*—that is **justice**.

The world often loves the first half of God’s character and rejects the second. But Scripture keeps them together.

God’s zeal for His own honor and His people’s safety fuels His **vengeance**. His patience is long, yet He will certainly punish the guilty; His wrath is never a reckless outburst but a measured, holy response.

### B. (:3B-5) Intensity of God’s Awesome Wrath **Displayed in Nature**

**God Is Sovereign** -- His Power Is Unstoppable

Storm, whirlwind, mountains melting—these aren’t metaphors of random chaos; they depict the Creator’s **supremacy** over creation.

He is not a tribal deity who competes; He is the sovereign Lord who commands.

### 1. Images of a Storm

*“In whirlwind and storm is His way,  
And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.”*

### 2. Images of Oceans and Rivers

*“He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;  
He dries up all the rivers.”*

### 3. Images of Forests and Fields

*“Bashan and Carmel wither;  
The blossoms of Lebanon wither.”*

#### 4. Images of Mountains and Hills

*“Mountains quake because of Him,  
And the hills dissolve”*

#### 5. Overall Summary

*“Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence,  
The world and all the inhabitants in it.”*

### C. (:6) Intensity of God’s Awesome Wrath **Overwhelming in its Devastation**

#### 1. (:6A) Two Rhetorical Questions

- a. *“Who can stand before His indignation?”*
- b. *“Who can endure the burning of His anger?”*

#### 2. (:6B) Two Images of Destructive Power

- a. Image of Ravaging Fire  
*“His wrath is poured out like fire.”*
- b. Image of Blasting Rocks  
*“And the rocks are broken up by Him.”*

### **(:7) APPLICATION: SECURITY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE**

#### A. Security Based on the Lord’s Paternal Goodness

*“The Lord is good”*  
Contrast to the evil of the Assyrian Empire

#### B. Security Based on the Lord’s Powerful Protection

*“a stronghold in the day of trouble”*  
Contrast to the vulnerable fortress of the city of Nineveh

#### C. Security Based on the Lord’s Personal Shepherding

*“And He knows those who take refuge in Him.”*  
Contrast to the presumptive pride and self confidence of Ninevites  
Cf. **John 10; Psalm 23**

## **II. (:8-14) DESCRIPTION OF THE FINALITY OF GOD’S AWESOME WRATH – HE WILL MAKE A COMPLETE END OF IT**

Illustration: Watching movies with my kids, whenever the bad guy was knocked down I always made a point to holler “Finish him off!” There’s nothing I hate more than seeing the bad guy inevitably rise up again to make one last attack on the good guy – especially when it would have been so easy to blast him with another couple of rounds. Here we see that God makes certain that he finishes off the wicked and allows no possibility for a second chance.

### A. **(:8) Introductory Summary:** God Will Make a Complete End of It

#### 1. Inescapable Destruction

*“But with an overflowing flood  
He will make a complete end of its site.”*

**James Boice:** The **overflowing flood** was fulfilled both figuratively and literally. “According to secular accounts, during the final siege of Nineveh by a rebel army of Persians, Medes, Arabians, and Babylonians, unusually heavy rains caused the rivers to flood and to undermine the city’s walls, which then collapsed . . . the invading armies entered the city through this breach in its defenses.

The **utter end of its place** was also literally fulfilled. Not only were these people lost from history, even the city was lost until it was discovered by archaeologists, beginning in the 1840’s.

## 2. Unrelenting Darkness

*“And will pursue His enemies into darkness.”*

### **B. (:9-13) Detailed Description: God Will Make a Complete End of It**

#### 1. (:9) No Second Chance for the Wicked to Rise Up and Attack

*“Whatever you devise against the Lord,  
He will make a complete end of it.  
Distress will not rise up twice.”*

#### 2. (:10) Images of Destruction of the Worthless

##### a. Worthless Thorns

*“Like tangled thorns,”*

##### b. Worthless Drunks

*“And like those who are drunken with their drink,”*

##### c. Worthless Stubble

*“They are consumed as stubble completely withered.”*

#### 3. (:11-13) Deliverance of God’s People by the Destruction of Their Enemies

##### a. (:11) Perversity of Wicked Adversary

*“From you has gone forth one who plotted evil against the Lord,  
A wicked counselor.”*

Counselor of Belial – Satanic influence

Contrast: Wonderful Counselor – **Is. 9:6**

##### b. (:12A) Impotence of Their Strength and Numbers

*“Thus says the Lord,  
Though they are at full strength and likewise many,  
Even so, they will be cut off and pass away.”*

##### c. (:12B) Reversal of Lord’s Discipline of His People

*“Though I have afflicted you,  
I will afflict you no longer.”*

##### d. (:13) Complete Deliverance from Captivity and Bondage

*“So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you,  
And I will tear off your shackles.”*

Cf. “Unshackled” evangelical radio program

C. (:14) **Concluding Summary:** God Will Make a Complete End of It

1. Decree Your Fate

*“The Lord has issued a command concerning you.”*

2. Denying (Stripping away) Your Legacy

*“Your name will no longer be perpetuated.”*

3. Destroying (Smashing) All False Idols

*“I will cut off idol and image from the house of your gods.”*

4. Dooming Their Destiny

*“I will prepare your grave,”*

**Biblehub.com:** The Assyrian king’s dynasty will end, idols will topple, and a grave is prepared. Meanwhile Judah is called to celebrate—*“the feet of one who brings good news and proclaims peace”*—for the invader will never march in again.

5. Despising Their Depravity

*“For you are contemptible.”*

**(:15) APPLICATION: SECURITY FOR GOD’S PEOPLE**

(Good transition verse – could be taken with the beginning of the next section as well.)

A. Security Needs to Be Communicated (Trumpeted) Throughout the World

*“Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news.  
Who announces peace!”*

**David Guzik: Isaiah 52:7** uses a similar expression, but Isaiah marvels at the *beauty* of the *feet of him who brings good news*. Nahum would certainly agree, because those who bring **good tidings** have beautiful feet; they partner with God for the salvation of men. The **feet** speak of activity, motion, and progress, and those who are active and moving in the work of preaching the gospel have *beautiful feet*.

B. Security Needs to Be Celebrated From a Heart of Thanksgiving and Obedience

*“Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; Pay your vows.”*

C. Security Needs to Be Cemented in Eternal Confidence

*“For never again will the wicked one pass through you;  
He is cut off completely.”*

**Biblehub.com: Nahum 1** balances fiery judgment with tender protection. The same voice that topples kingdoms whispers safety to those who trust Him. The prophet’s message rings across centuries: God’s goodness is a shelter; His justice is a flood—choose your ground accordingly.

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**Chap. 2 – THE CATASTROPHE OF GOD’S JUDGMENT --  
SWIFT AND TERRIFYING  
WHEN THE SOVEREIGN LORD TARGETS NINEVEH FOR DESTRUCTION,  
THE DEVASTATION IS SWIFT AND TERRIFYING**

Chapter 2 describes the actual **fall of Nineveh**. The language is vivid, fast-moving, and terrifying. This is not history from man’s point of view—this is history from God’s.

**I. (2:1-2) THE STRENGTH (OR WEAKNESS) OF NATIONS DOES NOT  
PROTECT THEM AGAINST THE REVERSAL OF FORTUNES --  
TWO DIFFERENT DESTINIES:**

**A. (:1) Nineveh Under Attack**

1. The Wheel Has Turned – Sovereign Control of History

The Enemy is at the Gate / Defeat and Captivity are Imminent

*“The one who scatters has come up against you.”*

Contrast how believers are called to ministry of edification

2. The Futile Call to Arms – 4 Rapid-Fire Commands

a. Call to Battle Stations

*“Man the fortress”*

b. Call to Watchtower Alertness

*“watch the road;”*

c. Call to Courage

*“Strengthen your back,”*

d. Call to Fight Strong

*“summon all your strength.”*

**B. (:2) Judah Restored**

1. The Wheel Has Turned – Sovereign Control of History

*“For the Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob*

*Like the splendor of Israel”*

2. The Devastation Will be Reversed

*“Even though devastators have devastated them*

*And destroyed their vine branches.”*

**II. (2:3-6) THE ATTACKING FORCES QUICKLY BREACH THE WALLS**

Note: The interpretation of the details in this section greatly differ – especially which phrases refer to the attacking army of the Chaldeans and which might have reference to the defending troops within the city walls of Nineveh. I take this section as descriptive of the attacking forces under the direction of the “one who scatters” (**vs. 1**).

**A. (:3) Attacking Forces Armed to the Teeth**

1. Impressive Shields

*“The shields of his mighty men are colored red”*

2. Impressive Armor

*“The warriors are dressed in scarlet”*

3. Impressive Chariots

*“The chariots are enveloped in flashing steel”*

4. Impressive Spears

*“And the cypress spears are brandished.”*

B. (:4) Attacking Forces Rush to Their Staging Positions

C. (:5) Attacking Forces Prepare to Breach the Walls of Nineveh

D. (:6) Flood Gates Opened

*“The gates of the rivers are opened*

*And the palace is dissolved.”*

Nineveh’s walls were 100 feet high and 60 feet thick—but the book hints at a flood undermining them. History confirms this: the Tigris swelled, breached the wall, and created a path for the invaders. Human defenses cannot stand against the instruments of God’s judgment.

**III. (2:7-10) THE CITY IS STRIPPED AND THE PEOPLE REDUCED TO TERROR AND ANGUISH**

A. (:7) Four-Fold Summary of Defeat and Devastation

1. Decreed -- Finality of the Decreed Defeat

*“It is fixed”*

2. Despoiled -- City Looted

*“She is stripped”*

3. Depopulated -- People Carried Away to Captivity

*“she is carried away”*

4. Depressed -- Emotional Trauma and Anguish

*“And her handmaids are moaning like the sound of doves,  
Beating on their breasts.”*

B. (:8) Panic-stricken People Fleeing the City

*“Though Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days,*

*Now they are fleeing;*

*‘Stop, stop,’*

*But no one turns back.”*

C. (:9) Wealth of City Plundered

*“Plunder the silver!*

*Plunder the gold!*

*For there is no limit to the treasure –  
Wealth from every kind of desirable object.”*

D. (:10) Four-Fold Summary of Defeat and Devastation

1. City Emptied

*“She is emptied!”*

2. City Devastated

*“Yes, she is desolate and waste”*

3. People are Terrified and Panic-stricken

*“Hearts are melting and knees knocking!”*

4. People are Traumatized and in Shock

*“Also anguish is in the whole body  
And all their faces are grown pale!”*

**IV. (2:11-13) THE OPPOSITION OF THE LORD DEVOURS THE DEVOURER**

A. (:11-12) The Powerful Predator is Nowhere to Be Found

1. (:11) Former Protected Lair

*“Where is the den of the lions  
And the feeding place of the young lions,  
Where the lion, lioness and lion’s cub prowled,  
With nothing to disturb them?”*

Assyria used the lion as its **symbol of dominance**. God asks:

- *“Where is the lions’ den now?”*

2. (:12) Former Predatory Prosperity

*“The lion tore enough for his cubs,  
Killed enough for his lionesses,  
And filled his lairs with prey  
And his dens with torn flesh.”*

God will **tear apart any kingdom that tears apart His people**.

B. (:13) Summary Proclamation of Condemnation

1. Opposition of the Lord – Key Phrase

*“‘Behold, I am against you,’ declares the Lord of hosts.”*

God’s justice is not random—it is precise, measured, and inevitable

2. Destruction of Military Resources

*“I will burn up her chariots in smoke,”*

Nations today boast in their military, wealth, and influence.

3. Destruction of Fighting Forces

*“a sword will devour your young lions;”*

#### 4. Elimination of Material Sustenance

*“I will cut off your prey from the land,”*

#### 5. Elimination of Power and Prestige

*“and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard.”*

**Biblehub.com:** **Nahum 2** is more than ancient history. It is a living portrait of God’s unstoppable justice, His care for His people, and the fleeting nature of worldly strength. The once-roaring lion of Assyria fell silent; the voice of the Lord still thunders.

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### **Chap. 3 -- THE CAUSE OF GOD’S JUDGMENT -- DESERVED AND UNAVOIDABLE THE DIVINE HUMILIATION AND DEVASTATION OF NINEVEH IS DESERVED, INEVITABLE AND UNAVOIDABLE**

#### **I. (:1-7) NINEVEH DESERVES TO BE COMPLETELY HUMILIATED AND TOTALLY DEVASTATED**

##### **A. (:1-4) Her Crimes**

##### 1. (:1-3) Wicked Cruelty

##### **a. (:1) The Denunciation**

*“Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage;  
Her prey never departs.”*

##### **b. (:2-3) The Devastation**

*“The noise of the whip,  
The noise of the rattling of the wheel,  
Gallop horses and bounding chariots!  
Horsemen charging, swords flashing, spears gleaming,  
Many slain, a mass of corpses, and countless dead bodies –  
They stumble over the dead bodies.”*

**Robert Chisholm:** Nahum emphasized the reversal in Nineveh’s fortunes through three subtle wordplays, which are apparent only in the Hebrew text.

- While Nineveh contained a seemingly “endless” supply of gold and silver (2:9), she would soon be covered with bodies “without number” (3:3).
- - “Piles” of corpses (3:3) would replace her abundant “wealth” (2:9).
- Because of her “wanton lust,” literally “many harlotries” (3:4), Nineveh would be filled with “many casualties” (3:3).

##### 2. (:4) Seducing Harlotry = Idolatry

*“All because of the many harlotries of the harlot,  
The charming one, the mistress of sorceries,  
Who sells nations by her harlotries and families by her sorceries.”*

Nineveh is described as a prostitute—seducing nations with false worship, sorcery, and political manipulation. This was moral rot wrapped in military power.

**James Boice:** Archaeologists have confirmed that the people of Nineveh practiced witchcraft. The pantheon of hideous, destructive deities was similar to today's Hindu pantheon. Most of these were imagined to hate and persecute human beings.

**B. (:5-6) Her Disgrace**

1. The Ultimate Enemy = the Lord of Hosts – God is a Devastating Enemy – Key Phrase

*“Behold, I am against you,’ declares the Lord of hosts;”*

2. The Ultimate Humiliation

*“And I will lift up your skirts over your face,  
And show to the nations your nakedness  
And to the kingdoms your disgrace.”*

3. The Ultimate Desecration

*“I will throw filth on you  
And make you vile,  
And set you up as a spectacle.”*

**James Boice:** No doubt Nineveh had actually treated others in this fashion: exposing their nakedness, pelting them with filth, mocking them in great public spectacle. Now she is to be treated in like fashion. And none will grieve for her, so great have her atrocities been! She is to vanish from history – friendless and unmourned.

**C. (:7) Her Rejection**

*“And it will come about that all who see you  
Will shrink from you and say,  
‘Nineveh is devastated!  
Who will grieve for her?’  
Where will I seek comforters for you?”*

**II. (:8-10) NINEVEH WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS THE SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE FORMER CAPITAL CITY OF EGYPT = NO-AMON**

**A. (:8-9) Seemingly Impregnable Defenses of No-Amon**

1. Argument from the Greater to the Lesser

*“Are you better than No-amon,”*

Nahum compares Nineveh to the city of **Thebes**—once invincible, now destroyed.

The message: “You think you’re the exception. You’re not.”

2. Geographical Defenses

*“Which was situated by the waters of the Nile,  
With water surrounding her,  
Whose rampart was the sea,  
Whose wall consisted of the sea?”*

3. Political Alliances

*“Ethiopia was her might,*

*And Egypt too, without limits.  
Put and Lubim were among her helpers.”*

**B. (:10) Surprising Humiliation and Devastation**

1. Captivity

*“Yet she became an exile,  
She went into captivity;”*

2. Slaughter

*“Also her small children were dashed to pieces at the head of every street;”*

3. Humiliation

*“They cast lots for her honorable men,  
And all her great men were bound with fetters.”*

**III. (:11-19) NINEVEH HAS NO DEFENSE AGAINST THE OUTPOURING OF THE WRATH OF GOD**

**A. (:11-13) Easy Target -- Ripe for Plundering**

1. (:11a) Drunk and Defenseless

*“You too will become drunk,*

2. (:11b) Destined for Oblivion

*You too will be hidden.”*

**Charles Lee Feinberg:** The prophecy that the city would be hidden has been remarkably fulfilled, as is well known. After the destruction of Nineveh it disappeared completely from history. From 1842 on, the Frenchman Botta and the Englishmen Layard and Rawlinson excavated on the site and uncovered remains of this one time magnificent city.

3. (:11c) Vulnerable and Exposed -- No Place to Hide

*“You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.”*

4. (:12) Inviting Fortifications

*“All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit –  
When shaken, they fall into the eater’s mouth.”*  
Ingestible instead of Impenetrable

5. (:13a) Powerless Defenders – No Strength, No Courage

*“Behold, your people are women in your midst!”*  
Application: Women in military??

6. (:13b) Open Gates

*“The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies;  
Fire consumes your gate bars.”*

B. (:14-15a) Futile Defense

1. (:14) Sarcastic Pleas for Preparation

a. Gather Provisions

*“Draw for yourself water for the siege!”*

b. Strengthen the Fortifications

*“Strengthen your fortifications!*

*Go into the clay and tread the mortar!*

*Take hold of the brick mold!”*

2. (:15a) Scathing Prophecy of Devastation

*“There fire will consume you,*

*The sword will cut you down;*

*It will consume you as the locust does.”*

C. (15b-18) Collapse of Leadership

1. (:15b) No Safety in Numbers

*“Multiply yourself like the creeping locust,*

*Multiply yourself like the swarming locust.”*

2. (:16) No Security in Commerce

*“You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven –*

*The creeping locust strips and flies away.”*

3. (:17) No Salvation in Government

*“Your guardsmen are like the swarming locust.*

*Your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers*

*Settling in the stone walls on a cold day.*

*The sun rises and they flee,*

*And the place where they are is not known.”*

4. (:18) Sad Summary: No One Left to Rescue the City

*“Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria;*

*Your nobles are lying down.*

*Your people are scattered on the mountains.*

*And there is no one to regather them.”*

D. (:19) Inevitable and Deserved Humiliation and Devastation

*“There is no relief for your breakdown,*

*Your wound is incurable.*

*All who hear about you will clap their hands over you,*

*For on whom has not your evil passed continually?”*

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**CONCLUSION: When God is against you, you are in big trouble.**

Nineveh shows us a God who:

- **defends His glory**
- **delivers His people**
- **destroys His enemies**

And all of it in perfect justice and perfect timing.

- This is the God we worship.
- This is the God who rules over nations.
- This is the God who sent His Son—so that judgment would fall on Christ for all who believe and fall on the world for all who refuse.