

## **Message: The Book of Nahum**

Lord of Hope Ministries Int'l.  
Sr. Pastor Roscoe DeChalus M. Min.  
September 8, 2007

**Prelude:**

**Welcome:**

**Worship:**

**Message:**

Today we are going to read the bible book of NAHUM another book like last weeks book Haggai that most people do not know much about. Did you know this book is in the Bible? You will know the details by the time the service is over...

Let us pray...

**Bible Literacy Comment:**

For Jay Leno one late night, it was the Bible. During the taping of one of his television shows, Leno moved through his audience asking people what they knew about the Bible. "Name one of the [Ten Commandments](#)," he said.

"God helps those who help themselves?" someone ventured.

"Name one of the apostles," Leno told them. No one could.

Finally, he asked them to name the Beatles. Without hesitation, the answer came ringing from throughout the crowd: George, Paul, John and Ringo.

Leno wasn't spoofing the Bible that evening. He was spoofing our society, which claims grounding in Judeo-Christian principles and yet -- according to a number of surveys -- is increasingly losing touch with the Scriptures of our faith.

It is our goal here at Lord of Hope Ministries to teach the bible in our services so that you can be exposed to the text and the reasoning behind it. To facilitate this please turn in your bible to the book of Nahum. It is 6 books before the book of Matthew.

**Nahum 1-3 (New International Version)**

[New International Version](#) (NIV)

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## Nahum 1

1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

### *The Lord's Anger Against Nineveh*

2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;  
the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath.  
The LORD takes vengeance on his foes  
and maintains his wrath against his enemies.

3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.  
His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,  
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

4 He rebukes the sea and dries it up;  
he makes all the rivers run dry.  
Bashan and Carmel wither  
and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

5 The mountains quake before him  
and the hills melt away.  
The earth trembles at his presence,  
the world and all who live in it.

6 Who can withstand his indignation?  
Who can endure his fierce anger?  
His wrath is poured out like fire;  
the rocks are shattered before him.

7 The LORD is good,  
a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him,

8 but with an overwhelming flood  
he will make an end of Nineveh;  
he will pursue his foes into darkness.

9 Whatever they plot against the LORD  
he <sup>[a]</sup> will bring to an end;  
trouble will not come a second time.

10 They will be entangled among thorns  
and drunk from their wine;  
they will be consumed like dry stubble. <sup>[b]</sup>

- 11 From you, O Nineveh, has one come forth  
who plots evil against the LORD  
and counsels wickedness.
- 12 This is what the LORD says:  
"Although they have allies and are numerous,  
they will be cut off and pass away.  
Although I have afflicted you, O Judah,  
I will afflict you no more.
- 13 Now I will break their yoke from your neck  
and tear your shackles away."
- 14 The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh:  
"You will have no descendants to bear your name.  
I will destroy the carved images and cast idols  
that are in the temple of your gods.  
I will prepare your grave,  
for you are vile."
- 15 Look, there on the mountains,  
the feet of one who brings good news,  
who proclaims peace!  
Celebrate your festivals, O Judah,  
and fulfill your vows.  
No more will the wicked invade you;  
they will be completely destroyed.

## **Nahum 2**

### ***Nineveh to Fall***

- 1 An attacker advances against you, Nineveh.  
Guard the fortress,  
watch the road,  
brace yourselves,  
marshal all your strength!
- 2 The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob  
like the splendor of Israel,  
though destroyers have laid them waste  
and have ruined their vines.
- 3 The shields of his soldiers are red;  
the warriors are clad in scarlet.  
The metal on the chariots flashes

on the day they are made ready;  
the spears of pine are brandished. [c]

4 The chariots storm through the streets,  
rushing back and forth through the squares.  
They look like flaming torches;  
they dart about like lightning.

5 He summons his picked troops,  
yet they stumble on their way.  
They dash to the city wall;  
the protective shield is put in place.

6 The river gates are thrown open  
and the palace collapses.

7 It is decreed [d] that the city  
be exiled and carried away.  
Its slave girls moan like doves  
and beat upon their breasts.

8 Nineveh is like a pool,  
and its water is draining away.  
"Stop! Stop!" they cry,  
but no one turns back.

9 Plunder the silver!  
Plunder the gold!  
The supply is endless,  
the wealth from all its treasures!

10 She is pillaged, plundered, stripped!  
Hearts melt, knees give way,  
bodies tremble, every face grows pale.

11 Where now is the lions' den,  
the place where they fed their young,  
where the lion and lioness went,  
and the cubs, with nothing to fear?

12 The lion killed enough for his cubs  
and strangled the prey for his mate,  
filling his lairs with the kill  
and his dens with the prey.

13 "I am against you,"  
declares the LORD Almighty.  
"I will burn up your chariots in smoke,  
and the sword will devour your young lions.  
I will leave you no prey on the earth.  
The voices of your messengers  
will no longer be heard."

## **Nahum 3**

### ***Woe to Nineveh***

1 Woe to the city of blood,  
full of lies,  
full of plunder,  
never without victims!

2 The crack of whips,  
the clatter of wheels,  
galloping horses  
and jolting chariots!

3 Charging cavalry,  
flashing swords  
and glittering spears!  
Many casualties,  
piles of dead,  
bodies without number,  
people stumbling over the corpses-

4 all because of the wanton lust of a harlot,  
alluring, the mistress of sorceries,  
who enslaved nations by her prostitution  
and peoples by her witchcraft.

5 "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty.  
"I will lift your skirts over your face.  
I will show the nations your nakedness  
and the kingdoms your shame.

6 I will pelt you with filth,  
I will treat you with contempt  
and make you a spectacle.

7 All who see you will flee from you and say,  
'Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?'  
Where can I find anyone to comfort you?"

- 8 Are you better than Thebes, <sup>[e]</sup>  
situated on the Nile,  
with water around her?  
The river was her defense,  
the waters her wall.
- 9 Cush <sup>[f]</sup> and Egypt were her boundless strength;  
Put and Libya were among her allies.
- 10 Yet she was taken captive  
and went into exile.  
Her infants were dashed to pieces  
at the head of every street.  
Lots were cast for her nobles,  
and all her great men were put in chains.
- 11 You too will become drunk;  
you will go into hiding  
and seek refuge from the enemy.
- 12 All your fortresses are like fig trees  
with their first ripe fruit;  
when they are shaken,  
the figs fall into the mouth of the eater.
- 13 Look at your troops—  
they are all women!  
The gates of your land  
are wide open to your enemies;  
fire has consumed their bars.
- 14 Draw water for the siege,  
strengthen your defenses!  
Work the clay,  
tread the mortar,  
repair the brickwork!
- 15 There the fire will devour you;  
the sword will cut you down  
and, like grasshoppers, consume you.  
Multiply like grasshoppers,  
multiply like locusts!
- 16 You have increased the number of your merchants  
till they are more than the stars of the sky,

but like locusts they strip the land  
and then fly away.

17 Your guards are like locusts,  
your officials like swarms of locusts  
that settle in the walls on a cold day—  
but when the sun appears they fly away,  
and no one knows where.

18 O king of Assyria, your shepherds <sup>[g]</sup> slumber;  
your nobles lie down to rest.  
Your people are scattered on the mountains  
with no one to gather them.

19 Nothing can heal your wound;  
your injury is fatal.  
Everyone who hears the news about you  
claps his hands at your fall,  
for who has not felt  
your endless cruelty?

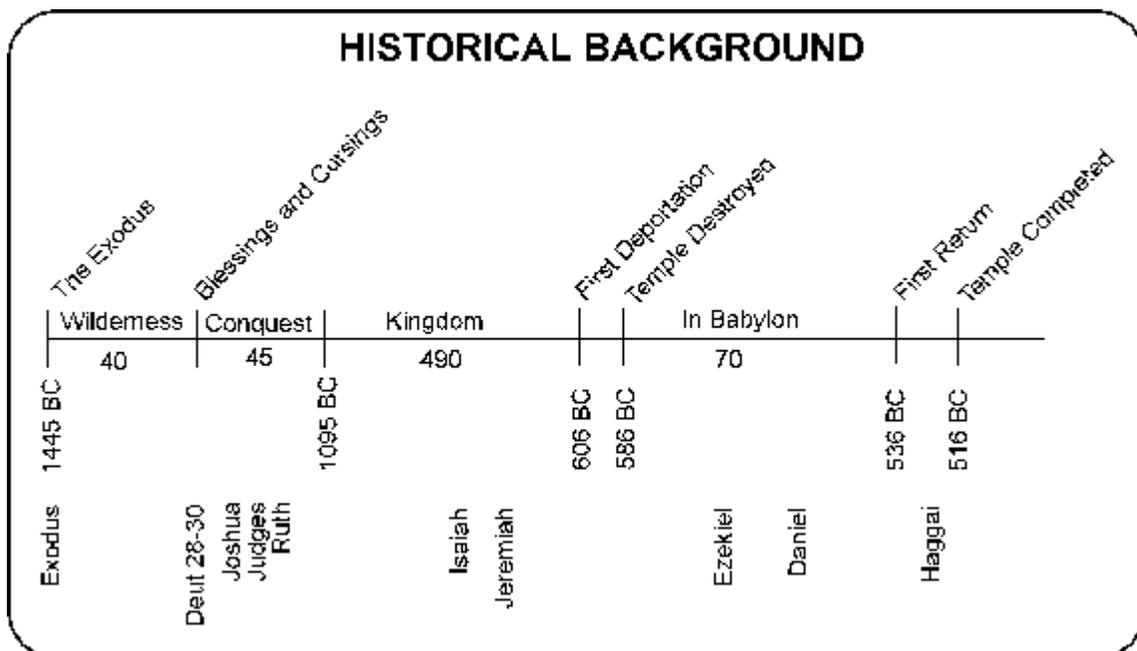
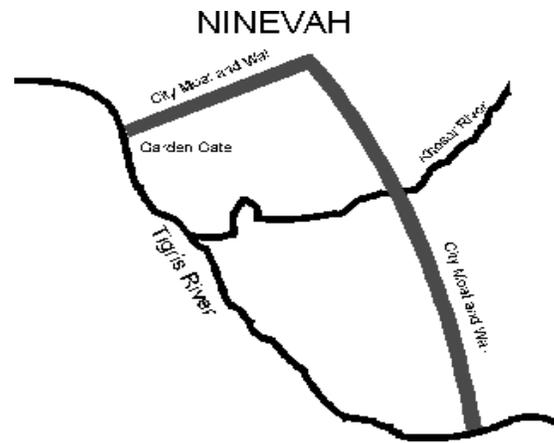
## The Book of Nahum

<b>Who</b>	The Prophet Nahum
<b>Where</b>	described the fall of Ninevah
<b>When</b>	In the Middle East while Assyria was still Dominant
<b>Why</b>	To affirm Gods intent to Judge Wickedness

**Author:** The author of the Book of Nahum identifies himself as Nahum (in the Hebrew “Consoler” or “Comforter”) the Elkoshite (1:1). There are many theories as to where that city was though there is no conclusive evidence. One such theory is that it refers to the city later called Capernaum (which literally means “the village of Nahum”) at the Sea of Galilee.

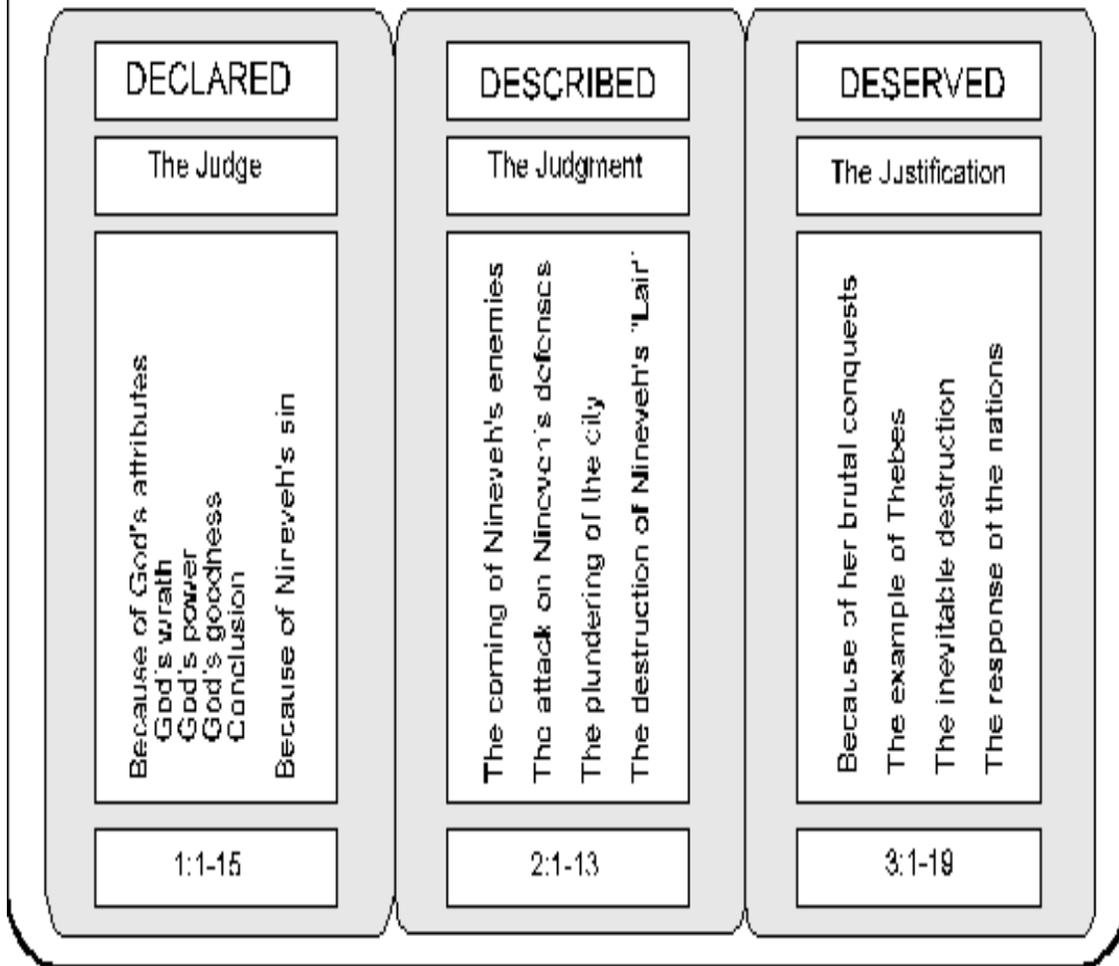
The name Nahum means “Consolation”

**Date of Writing:** Given the limited amount of information that we know about Nahum the best we can do is narrow the timeframe the Book of Nahum was written to between 663 and 612 B.C. Two events are mentioned that help us to determine these dates. First Nahum mentions Thebes (No Amon) in Egypt falling to the Assyrians (663 B.C.) in past tense so it had already happened. Secondly, the remainder of Nahum's prophecies came true in 612 B.C.



The book of Nahum can also be read as a warning. God plays no favorites. He will punish his own people if they also prove to be wicked.

# NAHUM: NINEVEH'S DOOM



**Purpose of Writing:** Nahum did not write this book as a warning or “call to repentance” for the people of Nineveh. God had already sent them the prophet Jonah 150 years earlier with His promise of what would happen if they continued in their evil ways. The people at that time had repented but now lived just as bad if not worse than they did before. The Assyrians had become absolutely brutal in their conquests (hanging the bodies of their victims on poles and putting their skin on the walls of their tents among other atrocities). Now Nahum was telling the people of Judah to not despair because God had pronounced judgment and the Assyrians would soon be getting just what they deserved.

**Key Verses:** Nahum 1:7, “The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.”

Nahum 1:14a. "The Lord has given a command concerning you: 'Your name shall be perpetuated no longer.'"

Nahum 1:15a, "Behold on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace". See also Isaiah 52:7 and Romans 10:15.

Nahum 2:13a, "Behold I am against you,' says the Lord of hosts."

Nahum 3:19, "Your injury has no healing, your wound is severe. All who hear news of you will clap their hands over you, for upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?"

The prophet teaches that divine judgment of the wicked is certain. This brief book is divided into three parts:

1. God's anger against Nineveh is expressed.
2. Nineveh's imminent fall is described.
3. The Carnage is graphically portrayed.

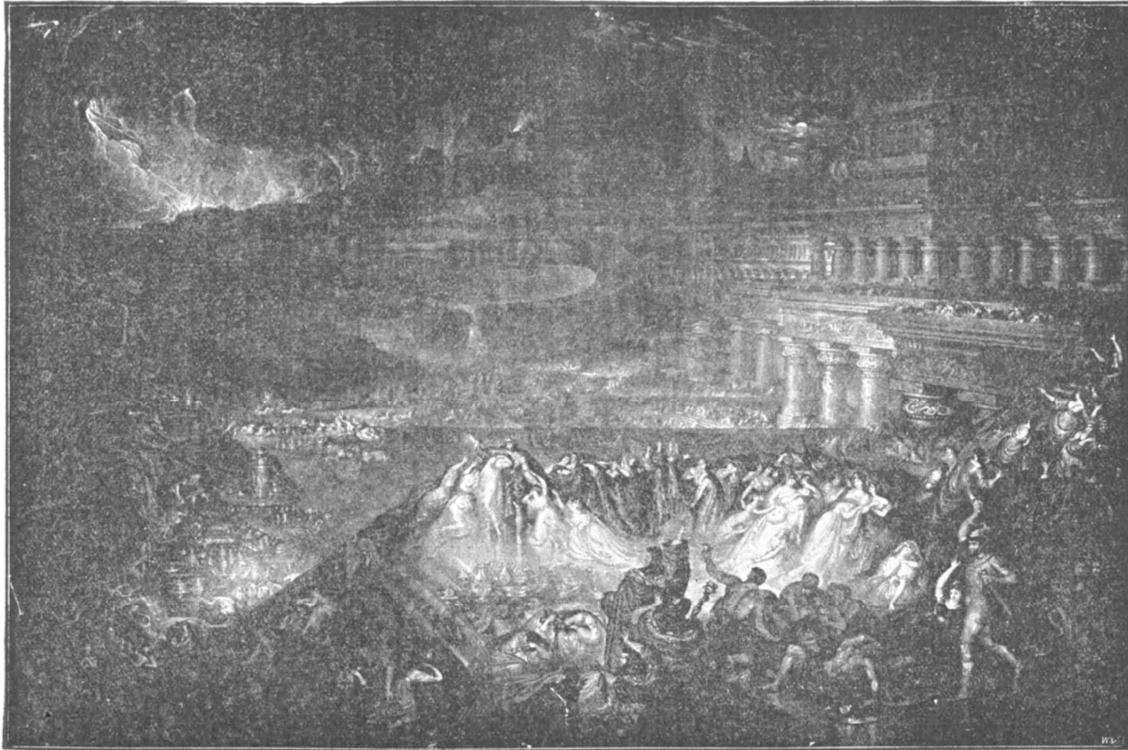
### **Themes:**

#### **Judgment**

Judgment, according to the prophet is the instrument of Nineveh's destruction God Himself. The Ninevites failed to live in the light of heir earlier repentance. Nahum taught that God punishes violence, idolatry, ruthless business practices, materialism and cruelty.

#### **Deliverance**

Nahum's prophesy of judgment was intended to bring hope to the people of Judah, who had suffered Assyrian abuse for many years. God cares for his people and will punish those who abuse them. He will protect them, free them from oppression and restore them.



FALL OF NINEVEH.—NAHUM iii

*John Martin*

The book of Nahum speaks about the utter destruction of Nineveh. When does God's judgment against Nineveh take place in relation to the repentance of Nineveh in the book of Jonah? Are these prophecies spoken of Nineveh at the same time that God sends Jonah to save it?

God gave Jonah a job to do but Jonah ran from God and he was swallowed by a great fish. While in the belly of the great fish Jonah repented and became a prophet in 793BC. His ministry ended in 753BC.

Nineveh doesn't fall until 612BC. Nineveh fell well after Jonah ended his ministry, probably well after he died.

Nineveh fell 141 years after Jonah's ministry ended, which would be about 4 generations (if a generation is based on 30-40 years). That would be enough time for the younger generation to forget their repentance and turn back to the sins of their ancestors before them. It makes you wonder where Jonah's reluctance or hatred towards the Ninevites played a role in the sense that the Ninevites turned and repented but yet went back to their wretched sinful ways only 141 years afterward. Their repentance and the Lord's favor upon them only lasted for a brief time in history before sin got the better of them again.

Question: Is sin getting the best of you? Do you think that you will get away with not being punished for your rebellion?

Think again...

Nothing escapes the eyes of God.

**Conclusion:**

Nineveh once had repented and served the Lord God Jehovah. That had changed over the course of 150 years. They had turned away from God and so God was judging them. The same holds true for us today. God is patient. He gives every country time to proclaim Him as their Lord. But He is not mocked. Any time a country turns away from Him to serve its own motives, He steps in with judgment. Almost 220 years ago the United States was formed as a Nation guided by principles found in the Bible. In the last 50 years that has changed and we are turning faster daily in the opposite direction. If we as a nation do not stand up and stop this liberal, God-denying, self-serving, live-for-the-moment attitude then we should not be surprised when God disciplines the USA. As Christians it is our duty to stand up for Biblical principles and Scriptural truth. We are our country's only hope.

If you are in a pattern of sin, repent and confess it to the Lord.

Draw near to God. He will not forsake you.

Will you do this?

If not, remember what took place in the book of Nahum.

Let's stand for closing prayer.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Announcements and Offering:**

**Communion:**

**Postlude:**

**References:**

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Nahum.html>