



Nahum

Nineveh (the sequel)

The Minor Prophets

The Minor Prophets

28. Hosea

29. Joel

30. Amos

31. Obadiah

32. Jonah

33. Micah

34. Nahum

35. Habakkuk

36. Zephaniah

37. Haggai

38. Zechariah

39. Malachi

Nahum Nineveh (the sequel)

Nahum Nineveh (the sequel)

- **Jonah** gave us the first episode on Nineveh.
- That prophet went there grudgingly, preached judgment to them blandly and saw the whole city repent.
- **Nahum** now gives us the follow-up.
- Jonah would have surely approved.

Nahum Nineveh (the sequel)

Jonah had warned the people of Nineveh of Yahweh's wrath, and they had learned that God is 'slow to anger' They had repented at his preaching, but the change had only lasted for a generation or two. Soon they resumed their evil and arrogant ways ...

– Cossi Augustin Ahoga, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students



Nahum Nineveh (the sequel)

Now they will learn, through Nahum, that the God who restrained his anger in Jonah's time will let it loose if they return to evil ... He will not spare Nineveh this time.

– Cossi Augustin Ahoga, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students



Nahum Nineveh (the sequel)

- Some 100-150 years after Jonah's visit to Nineveh the city and the nation were back to their old ways.
- Therefore God directed this prophecy of judgment against **Assyria**, the most powerful empire of its time.

Nahum the Prophet

Nahum the Prophet

- The name Nahum means “comfort”.
- Any comfort that appears in the book is directed at the people of Judah – and not the Assyrians.

Nahum the Prophet

- We don't know much about Nahum except that he came from **Elkosh (1:1)**, but we're not sure where that was.
- One possibility is **Capernaum**, where Jesus made His home.
- Capernaum can be translated as "**Village of Comfort**" or "**Village of Nahum**".

A Few (More) Facts on Nineveh

A Few (More) Facts on Nineveh

- Nimrod, the founder of Babel, also founded Nineveh.
 - See Genesis 10:9-12
- Nineveh later became the capital of the empire of Assyria, the dominant world power from about 800 – 625 BC.

A Few (More) Facts on Nineveh

- Then **Babylon** began to rise in power.
- In 612 BC, Nineveh fell to the Medes, Babylonians and Scythians.

An Outline of Nahum

An Outline of Nahum

- Chapter 1: The Character of God
- Chapter 2: The Destruction of Nineveh
- Chapter 3: The Guilt of Nineveh

Reading through Nahum

Reading through Nahum

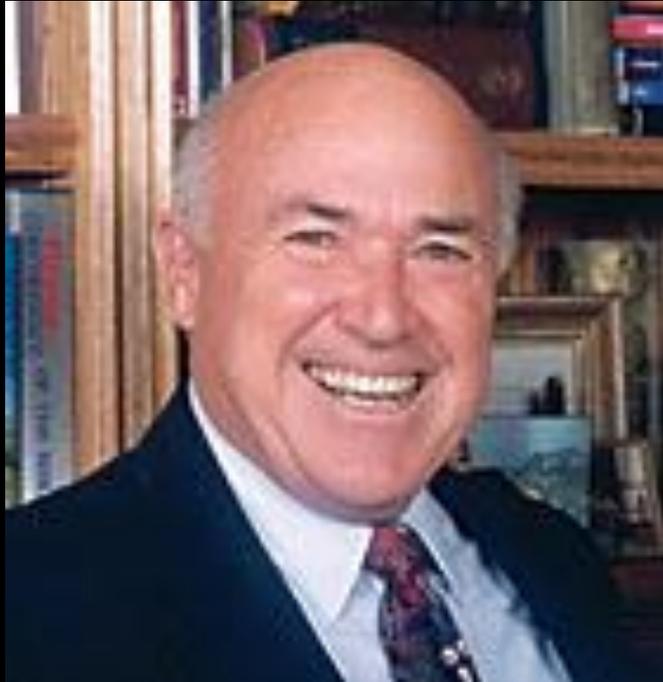
- As we read through the book of Nahum try to find verses that can help us understand the following:
 - The nature or character of **Nineveh**
 - The nature or character of **God**
 - What the destruction of Nineveh must have been like

God's Character

God's Character

- **1:7** The Lord is good. It is easy to forget this.
- We see God through the lens of our fallen mindset while living in fallen world.

God's Character



If God is doling out punishment, it is always the right thing to do ... If you trust in Him, He will do good for you.

*– Pastor Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

God's Character

- 1:7 The Lord is good.
- God's word provides the corrective data we need to fix our fallen perspectives.

God's Character

- **1:12** at full strength and many
- According to the *New Scofield Reference Bible*, the Hebrew reflects an ancient Assyrian legal formula.
- It appears on dozens of tablets discovered by archaeologists.

God's Character

- **1:12** at full strength and many
- The meaning points to collective responsibility for carrying out an obligation.
- God shows his justice by responding to Assyria according to the collective responsibility they claimed for themselves.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

A Prophecy Fulfilled

- **Nahum 3:11** says that Nineveh, would “go into hiding.”
- As we’ve seen, much of the book warns of Nineveh’s destruction.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

- In fact, the destruction was almost too complete.
- A few hundred years later [Alexander the Great](#) marched his armies over the spot without knowing Nineveh was there.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

- Then, after some 2500 years the site was finally rediscovered in the 1800s near the city of Mosul, Iraq.
- Credit goes to an Assyrian Christian named **Hormuzd Rassam** and a team of British archaeologists.

A Prophecy Fulfilled

- Since that time, palaces have been uncovered along with a huge library containing the records of the Assyrians.
- Those records list ten different kings of Israel by name.
- Unfortunately, by 2016, ISIS had severely damaged the site including city walls and gates.

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

- The book of Nahum ends with what amounts to a lament over the violent and arrogant city of Nineveh.
- **3:19** Still, the numerous people who have been oppressed by her for centuries cannot help but rejoice at her downfall.

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

The book of Nahum ... ends with the sad recognition that inhabitants of the city are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them together (3:18b). We are reminded of Jesus' description of the people of Israel as 'harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd' (Matt 9:36). Nahum does not prophesy the coming of the Messiah, but he shows the need for him.

– Cossi Augustin Ahoga, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students



Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

- We can be thankful that God's covenant faithfulness to Israel has been extended to us in the coming of Jesus.
- In Christ we see the ultimate expression of God's justice, faithfulness and goodness to a world in rebellion.

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

- The book of **Nahum** also acts as a warning.
- The city that repented at the words of Jonah later reversed their repentance.
- They turned back from repentance to rebellion against God.

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

- Jonah's prophecy that Nineveh would be destroyed in 40 days was delayed for over 100 years.
- That judgment did eventually come, and when it did it was probably worse than the city imagined.

Nineveh (the sequel) Conclusions

- If we are willing to receive him, Christ received the punishment of God's justice on our behalf.
- On that basis he extends the mercy and goodness of God's forgiveness.
- May our lives reflect each day that we have submitted our hearts to him – with no turning back.