

(To Nineveh)

Old Testament Survey : **N A H U M**

**Author:** Nahum - His name means "*Compassionate one.*" This is the only Biblical mention of him. The prediction of the destruction of Nineveh would have been a "*consolation or comfort*" to Judah and all who feared the Assyrians. He was an "Elkoshite." There is considerable debate about the location of "*Elkosh.*" Four locations proposed: 1) "*Al-Qush*" - an ancient "suburb" of Nineveh - proposed because of the prophets familiarity with Nineveh. 2) "*Elkesi*" near Ramah of Galilee - because of similarity of constants of the name. 3) Capernaum because the name means "*City of Nahum*" - felt that name was changed to honor the prophet. 4) Elcese between Jerusalem and Gaza. A well there is named "*Bir elKaus*" - possibly a hold over name - felt that Nahum wrote from Judean perspective.

**Date:** 654-639 Nineveh (Assyria) is at the high point of their power. The repentance at Jonah's preaching about a hundred years earlier (c. 760 B.C.) is a distant memory and they have returned to their old ways.

**Biblical Context:** 2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

Contemporaries: Habakkuk (635-625); Zephaniah (630-622); Jeremiah (626-580) were younger and would have been active toward the end of Nahum's life.

**Theme:** Nineveh must be destroyed. Nineveh's judgement is irreversibly decreed by the righteous God who will no longer delay His wrath.

**Setting:** Assyria has been the dominate world power since Sargon II (722-705). Their rule was extended under Sennacherib (705-681), Esarhaddon (681-669) and Ashurbanipal (669-627) so that they boasted their reign extended from sunrise to sunset and that there were no more enemies to conquer. The empire started declining after Ashurbanipal so that Nabopolassar achieved independence for Babylon in 616 B.C. Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. , the empire fell apart by 609 and its final stand in Haran ended in 607 or 606.

**Outline:**

- I. Destruction of Nineveh Decreed (1)
- II. Destruction of Nineveh Described (2)
- III. Destruction of Nineveh Deserved (3)

**Key Chapters & Verses**

1:7 *The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him. 8 But with an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, And will pursue His enemies into darkness.*

3:5 *"Behold, I am against you," declares the Lord of hosts; "And I will lift up your skirts over your face, And show to the nations your nakedness And to the kingdoms your disgrace. 6 "I will throw filth on you And make you vile, And set you up as a spectacle. 7 "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?"*

## **Detailed Outline of Nahum**

- I. The Destruction of Nineveh is Decreed - Chapter 1
  - A. The General Principles of Divine Judgement (1-8)
    - 1. God's Vengeance in Judgment (1-2)
  
    - 2. God's Power in Judgment (3-8)
  
  - B. The Destruction of Nineveh and Deliverance of Judah (9-15)
  
- II. The Destruction of Nineveh is Described - Chapter 2
  - A. The Call to Battle (1-2)
  
  
  - B. The Destruction of Nineveh (3-13)
  
- III. The Destruction of Nineveh is Deserved - Chapter 3
  - A. The Reasons for the Destruction of Nineveh (1-11)
    - 1. Nineveh's Great Ungodliness (1-7)
  
  
    - 2. Comparison of Nineveh to No Amon (8-11)
  
  
  - B. The Destruction of Nineveh is Inevitable (12-19)
    - 1. Nineveh's Strongholds are Weak (12-15)
  
  
    - 2. Nineveh's Leaders are Weak (16-19)

(To Judah)

Old Testament Survey : **H A B A K K U K**

**Author:** Habakkuk - His name means “One who embraces”

1:1 - He has the title of “prophet” 3:19 - he may have been a priest & musician

**Date:** Uncertain. 635-605 B.C. The sin of the nation is great so it is either before Josiah’s revival or after his death (reign 642-609 B.C.). The Chaldeans have risen in power, for Habbakkuk knows enough about them to recognize their wickedness, but they are not the dominate force, so it is still surprising God will use them.

**Setting:** Judah is sinful (1:2-4) and God’s judgement will come through the Chaldeans which have become a major power

**Biblical Context:** 2 Kings 23:31-24:7, 2 Chronicles 36:1-8

Contemporaries: Habakkuk, Jeremiah. The Reign of Josiah

**Theme:** Having faith despite the difficulties

**Outline:**

- I. The Problems of Faith - 1& 2
  - A. First Problem (1:1-11)
  - B. Second Problem (1:13-2:20)
- II. The Prayer and Assurance of Faith - 3
  - A. His Prayer for Mercy (3:1-2)
  - B. His Assurance of the Lord’s Justice (3:3-16)
  - C. His Trust in God (3:17-19)

**Key Chapters & Verses**

2:4 - “The righteous will live by his faith”

3:16-19 - Trusting the Lord in All Circumstances

Detailed Outline

- I. The Problems of Faith - 1& 2
  - A. First Problem (1:1-11)
    - 1. Habakkuk’s Complaint (1-4)
  
- 2. God’s Reply (5-11)

- B. Second Problem (1:13-2:20)
  - 1. Habakkuk's Confusion (1:12-2:1)

- 2. God's Reply (2:2-20)

- II. The Prayer and Assurance of Faith - 3
  - A. His Prayer for Mercy (3:1-2)

- B. His Assurance of the Lord's Justice (3:3-16)
    - 1. The Glory of God (3-4)

- 2. The Power of God (5-15)

- C. His Trust in God (3:16-19)

(To Judah)

Old Testament Survey : **Z E P H A N I A H**

**Author:** Zephaniah - His name means "Jehovah Hides"

**Date:** 630-622

**Biblical Context:** 2 Kings 22:1-23:30; 2 Chronicles 34:1-35:19  
Contemporaries: Jeremiah, Habakkuk. The Reign of Josiah

**Theme:** The Day of the LORD - God's supernatural intervention into the affairs of men.

**Setting:**

**Outline:**

- I. Day of the Lord Prefigured, 1:1-3:7
  - A. In Judgment Upon Judah and Jerusalem, 1:1-2:3
  - B. In Judgment Upon the Surrounding Nations, 2:4-15
  - C. Woe upon Jerusalem Because of Her Sin, 3:1-7
- II. Establishment of the future kingdom, 3:8-20
  - A. Judgment of the Nations, 3:8-13
  - B. Rejoicing Remnant and the Messianic King, 3:14-20

**Key Chapters & Verses**

1:14-18. The Day of the LORD described.

Detailed Outline

- I. Superscription (1:1)
- II. Day of the Lord Prefigured, 1:1-3:7
  - A. Judgment on the Whole Earth (1:2,3) In

2. Judgment Upon Judah and Jerusalem, 1:4-2:3

B. In Judgment Upon the Surrounding Nations, 2:4-15

1. Philistia (2:4-7)

2. Moab/Ammon (2:8-11)

3. Ethiopia (2:12)

4. Assyria (2:13-15)

C. Woe upon Jerusalem Because of Her Sin, 3:1-7

II. Establishment of the future kingdom, 3:8-20

A. Judgment of the Nations, 3:8-13

B. Rejoicing Remnant and the Messianic King, 3:14-20