

Nahum

Worksheet prepared by: Chuck Kozens

The book of Nahum can be divided into three parts: the destruction of Nineveh decreed (ch. 1); the destruction of Nineveh described (ch. 2); and the destruction of Nineveh deserved (ch. 3).

Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps and charts pg. 258

The book was written while Assyria was still the most powerful nation in the ancient Near East as it had been for about two hundred years. In the middle of the seventh century B.C., it reached the zenith of its power and ruled a vast empire. Assyria had earlier conquered the northern kingdom of Israel (722 B.C.; 2 Kings 17) and had nearly destroyed Judah (2 Kings 19). However, Assyria was defeated by the Babylonians and the Medes in 612 B.C., and Babylon became the greatest power in the region. Nineveh is referred to in the prophecy, but the city represents all of Assyria, since it was the capital of the empire at this time. ***Truth for Today Commentary – The Minor Prophets, 2*** pg. 237

However, it seems more likely that the message was intended primarily for God's people. They needed to know that the wicked Kingdom of Assyria, which had plundered God's people and many other nations, would soon be destroyed! To know that fact would bring them comfort." Therefore, just as Nahum's name means something like "comfort," his book was intended to bring comfort to God's persecuted people." Even though the prophecy is about Nineveh, it is possible that the Assyrians never heard the message. ***Truth for Today Commentary – The Minor Prophets, 2*** pg. 239

1. Contents (Nahum 1-3):

Nahum is the prophet of Nineveh's doom. [Nahum 1](#) (plus [2:2](#)) contains the decree of Nineveh's destruction. *Yahweh* is a God of vengeance and of mercy ([Nahum 1:2-3](#)); though He may at times appear slack in punishing iniquity, He will surely punish the sinner. No one can stand before Him in the day of judgment ([Nahum 1:4-6](#)). *Yahweh*, faithful to those who rely upon Him ([Nahum 1:7](#)), will be terrible toward His enemies and toward the enemies of His people ([Nahum 1:8](#)). Judah need not fear: the present enemy is doomed ([Nahum 1:9-14](#)), which will mean the exaltation of Judah ([Nahum 1:15](#); [Nahum 2:2](#)). The army appointed to execute the decree is approaching, ready for battle ([Nahum 2:1-4](#)). All efforts to save the city are in vain; it falls ([Nahum 2:5-6](#)), the queen and her attendants are captured ([Nahum 2:7](#)), the inhabitants flee ([Nahum 2:8](#)), the city is sacked and left a desolation ([Nahum 2:9-13](#)). The destruction of the bloody city is imminent ([Nahum 3:1-3](#)); the fate is well deserved and no one will bemoan her ([Nahum 3:4-7](#)); natural strength and resources will avail nothing ([Nahum 3:8-11](#)); the soldiers turn cowards and the city will be utterly cut off ([Nahum 3:12-18](#)); the whole earth will rejoice over the downfall of the cruel oppressor ([Nahum 3:19](#)).

The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia.

Questions

1. Where does it say that the Lord is slow to anger and does this mean that those who are wicked need not be concerned about their actions?
2. Who is a stronghold in the day of trouble?
3. Can anyone stand before the indignation of the Lord?
4. What is said following the statement, *“The Lord has given a command concerning you”*?
5. List the two scriptures that begin *“Behold I am against you”* and what message follows each?
6. Who is being spoken of by the phrase, *“When the sun rises they flee away”*?
7. How will others react concerning the downfall of Assyria?
8. List the **lesson or lessons** that can be learned from the book of Nahum.