

# Nahum

## Introduction

Nahum was a prophet in the Southern Kingdom of Judah who prophesied the doom of Ninevah when the city was at its height. Nahum, in many ways, is a sequel to Jonah. The nation of Assyria had turned to God under Jonah's preaching, but in less than 100 years returned to their sin. The purpose of this book is to teach us that our God is longsuffering and full of mercy, but that He is also just and must punish sin. Nahum is the sixth prophet, and his name means "Comforter".

## Key Thought – Judgment Follows Sin

## Key Verse – Behold, I am against you! (2:13, 3:5)

## Outline

**Chapter 1 - The Overthrow of Ninevah Declared**

**Chapter 2 – The Overthrow of Ninevah Described**

**Chapter 3 – The Overthrow of Ninevah Defended**

## I. The Divine Warrior in Nahum – Chapter 1

The idea of God as a warrior is...

### **1. Rooted in the character of God.**

**a. God is jealous (1:2)** – God is jealous because an enemy has laid claim to His people. The Assyrians have taken His people and made them their people. Because God is jealous, He will repay every single act and every single person of evil. He is a warrior because He is jealous.

**b. God is just (1:3)** -God had sent the prophet Jonah to preach to Ninevah 100 years earlier. There is a day when the grace of God is over and the judgment of God will come. God always judges sin

**c. God is good (1:7)** – Nahum's name is Comforter. God is a comforter to those who know and love Him. He is a stronghold for those that would take refuge in Him. It's a word of intimacy. God knows us. and does good to those who take refuge in Him.

### **2. Expressive of the sovereignty of God (1:12)**

**a. Nineveh's power was unrivaled in Nahum's day.**

**b. God's power is unparalleled in any age.**

Nineveh's power was unrivaled in Nahum's day. Nahum does not wait until they have passed from the scene to issue this prophecy. He does not even wait until they are in a steady and sure decline. He writes it when they are **at full strength, when there is no hope whatsoever that the Assyrian nation will be taken down.**

Look at the prophecy in Nahum 2:6 – "The gates of the rivers are opened, and the palace is dissolved."

Greek historians tell us that around 612 B.C., the Babylonians laid siege to the City of Nineveh and that siege lasted for approximately three years. They encamped about the City of Nineveh and they were just going to

wait them out, but in that third year, the rains came and eventually, the riverbanks overflowed. In that flood, the water came rushing through the river gates and the Nineveh king, knowing that he was doomed, gathered all of his concubines, his family, and his possessions, into the palace and ordered that the palace and everybody in it be burnt to the ground. The Babylonians came and overtook the city and wiped it from the face of the earth. **The river gates were opened and the palace melted away.**

### **Application:**

It does not matter how great an enemy we may face. It doesn't matter if from our current viewpoint we have no chance of success. No enemy is a match for our God!

## **3. Critical in the judgment of God (1:14)**

### **a. This judgment is terrifying for the enemies of God (1:14, 2:13)**

Nahum 2:13 declares, "Behold, I am against you!" There are no more chilling, more frightening, or more terrifying words in all of the Bible than that. No one in this room wants to stand on the last day and hear God say, "I am against you."

### **b. This judgment is liberating for the people of God (1:15) –**

The truth of Nahum is also true for us today - God is either our ultimate ruin because He fights against us or God is our ultimate refuge because He fights for us!

## **II. The Divine Warrior in the New Testament**

We all have been born into a war. We have an adversary that is far greater, far worse, and far stronger than the Assyrians. We have an adversary who wars against our homes, our families, our church, and our life. But praise God that Jesus Christ came as our Divine Warrior!

### **a. Jesus Christ overcame the forces of evil during His life. (Mark 3:27)**

*"No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house"*

### **b. Jesus Christ triumphed over all enemies in His death (1 Cor. 15:56-57)**

*"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."*

### **c. Jesus Christ extends His kingdom even now through His church.**

The work of Christ and the expansion of His kingdom continues today when the Body of Christ (the church) is filled with the Spirit of Christ (The Holy Spirit). But the battle wages on. The Great Commission was and is a declaration of war.

We are sent into enemy territory to rescue prisoners of war following the orders of our King Jesus.

### **d. Jesus Christ will one day win the final victory and will reign victorious forever (19:11 – 20:10)**

### **Key verses when facing our enemy:**

Romans 8:31 – *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

1 John 4:4 – *"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world"*