

# *Nahum*

## *"Judgment Does Come"*

### **Background Information**

Nahum is sometimes seen as a follow-up book to Jonah, since both deal with Nineveh, and since some time has passed since Jonah's work there.

Nahum is a shortened form of the name Nehemiah, and means "comfort of God."

Almost exactly 100 years passed between Jonah's work (when the people of Nineveh repented) and when Nahum comes to them and they are judged by the Lord.

### **Time Covered and Outline**

The point of this book is not to tell a story, so very little time passes in the text of the narrative. The book probably occurs during the reign of Manasseh, or just before, around 700-690 BC.

The book's outline follows the chapter divisions and is all centered on Nineveh.

- I. Destruction is Coming (1)
  - A. God Illustrates His Power (1:2-8)
  - B. The Punishment is Stated (1:9-15)
- II. What Will Happen (2)
  - A. The City will be Assaulted (2:1-10)
  - B. The City will be Discredited (2:11-13)
- III. Why Destruction is Coming
  - A. Charge #1 (3:1-3)
  - B. Charge #2 (3:4-7)
  - C. Charge #3 (3:8-19)

### **Major Themes**

God's Sovereignty over the Nations

God's Judgment

Faithful are Loved by God

## God's Character in Nahum

Good (1:7)  
Jealous (1:2)  
Powerful (1:3)  
Providence (1:4)  
Sovereign (1:2-5)  
Wrathful (1:2-3, 6)

## Jesus in Nahum

While there are no direct references to Jesus in this short book, the way God's attributes are shown to us in the narrative mirror the way Christ was received while on the earth. God's goodness is shown (1:7), but He will punish and bring "vengeance on His adversaries" (1:2). So would Jesus.

## Key Words in Nahum

Jealous (Hebrew *qanno*); "to be eager" and "to be furious." 1:2

## Elsewhere in the World...

In the year 660BC, Japan is recognized by other nations as an independent nation for the first time.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Nahum prophesied either at the very end of Hezekiah's reign (2 Kings 19-20) or the beginning of that of Manasseh (2 Kings 21; 2 Chronicles 33). He was a contemporary of Isaiah.