
Nahum

Author

We know very little about Nahum except for what we can extract from the book itself. Nahum tells us he was an Elkoshite, which refers to either his birthplace or his place of ministry. We don't know where Elkosh was but there are a few possibilities, including Al Qosh in northern Iraq, Capernaum ("town of Nahum") or somewhere in southern Judah.

The name Nahum is a short form of Nehemiah and means "comfort" or "consolation," where Nehemiah means "comfort of Yahweh."

Book Background

The book of Nahum warns of God's judgment against Nineveh (in modern northern Iraq), the capital of the powerful Assyrian empire. Nineveh had turned to God over 100 years earlier under Jonah's ministry, but then returned to its wicked ways, idolatry, violence, and arrogance. They invested heavily in military defenses rather than maintaining their relationship with God.

Nahum mentions the fall of north Amon, which was in 663 B.C. This event seems fresh in Nahum's mind and would, therefore, date Nahum around the mid-seventh-century B.C.

Key Verse

Nahum 1:2 God is jealous, and the Lord avenges; The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; (NKJV)

Key Word

Jealous

In the Old Testament, when you see the expression "the Lord your God is a jealous God," it's usually associated with an injunction against idol worship. Because God alone is the Holy One, He alone is worthy of our allegiance and worship.

Outline

Nahum 1	Declare destruction of Nineveh Certainty of Nineveh's overthrow
Nahum 2	Detail destruction of Nineveh Capture of Nineveh
Nahum 3	Demand destruction of Nineveh Cause of Nineveh's demise

Personal Reflection and Application

Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The Lord has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. (NKJV)

Reflect on God's power. When you consider your current relationship with God, how does His power concern you or comfort you?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Nahum's portrayal of God's attributes also describes the person of Christ in His future coming. Christ first came to earth as the promised Messiah, depicting God's protection of the faithful (**Nahum 1:7**). At the second coming, Christ will bring judgment. The faithful, though, have nothing to fear. Discuss how knowing this cannot only give you hope for the future, but comfort in daily trials.

How does Nahum's instruction to Judah (**Nahum 1:15**) apply to us today?

Share the good news of Christ with others	Rom 10:14-15
Keep His commandments	John 14:15
Keep your promises	Mat 5:33-37

The Ninevites saw God's goodness in Jonah and God's severity in Nahum. Because of their return to wickedness, the wrath that God restrained in Jonah became the wrath that God reserved for the occasion (**Rom 11:22**).

- In what way does knowing this give you determination to reach everyone you can for Christ?
- What are you doing today to have a good relationship with God?
- What are you doing to teach your children to maintain their relationship with God?

Leadership Principles from Nahum

Investing for Success

The King of Assyria had invested heavily in military defenses rather than develop other leaders to follow God. Of course, the results were devastating (**Nah 3:18-19**). The leaders grew blind and failed in their duties.

The people scattered and the leaders were unable to organize them. The leaders did not help the people.

- What are you doing to continue to develop your leaders?
- What can you do to encourage them to keep their relationship with God strong?

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.

01. What Nahum said about the anger of God	02. How Nahum described the defeat of the city of Nineveh
03. What the city of Nineveh did to provoke God's judgment	