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Nahum 1

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Nahum 1.

Topics.

- A vision for Nineveh.
- The guilty will not escape judgment.
- God controls creation and the great power of God.
- God knows those who are His.
- No-one can stand against the LORD.
- God will destroy Nineveh.
- Behold him who brings good news.
- Paul in the New Testament quotes Nahum.

INTRODUCTION: to the book of Nahum, when Jonah preached repentance on the streets of Nineveh (the capital of Assyria) the people responded and were spared. A century later (about 650 B.C.), Nahum preached in a time when Nineveh would not repent. Nineveh, which had destroyed Israel's Northern Kingdom (the ten tribes) in 722, would itself fall to Babylon in 612—just a few years after Nahum's warning. The Assyrians were notorious for their brutal treatment of other nations. Nahum declared, however, that God is sovereign and punishes whom he will and that nations are powerless to stop him. Much of Nahum's prophecy was directed to the people of Judah, who could rejoice at the good news (1:15) of Nineveh's impending fall.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

NAHUM 1:1

A Vision for Nineveh.

- **Nahum 1:1:** An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

This vision primarily concerns Nineveh.

Nineveh: was for many years the capital of the great Assyrian empire, and its fortunes ebbed and flowed with the long strife between Babylonia and Assyria, of the two kingdoms, or empires, Babylonia was the more cultured, but Assyria the more warlike. Assyria had overthrown the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and later took forty cities of Judah captive, oppressing and deporting over two-hundred thousand people, but they were unable to take the city of Jerusalem.

NAHUM 1:2-3

The Guilty will not Escape Judgment.

- **Nahum 1:2-3:** The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.
³The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Nahum pictures God mightily walking over the surface of the earth with his feet making so much dust that they form the clouds in the sky. No one will escape God's judgment, but it is not always instant, the writer of Ecclesiastes says, "It is because the sentence against wrongdoing is not executed speedily by God that the human heart continues to do wrong." (Eccles. 8:11).

NAHUM 1:4

God Controls Creation.

- **Nahum 1:4:** He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers.

Bashan: was a broad, smooth, fertile region E of the Sea of Galilee in Samaria.

Carmel: means garden, it is often used as a symbol of beauty and fruitfulness, because of lush tree cover. South of Carmel lies the fruitful plain of Sharon and NE of it flows the river Kishon through the Plain of Esdraelon. The withering of Carmel became symbolic of destruction and desolation.

Lebanon: is included in God's promise; it is a snowclad mountain range extending 100 miles with peaks reaching 10,200 above sea level. The melting snow creates great rivers including the Jordan River meandering through Palestine to the Dead Sea. Its isolated crags, supported watch towers and refuge-points and came to symbolize the exalted status of Judah's royal house. Writers of biblical poetry speak at length on the motion of Lebanon's famous cedar trees, their massive branches their fragrance and on their height as a symbol of dignity and pride and on their growth and resistance to decay as a symbol of endurance. The psalmists' speaks of the greatness of the Creator who both plants the cedars and shatters them by His voice. The Lebanon's were also famous for choice-wine the lion and the leopard.

All the blood of Lebanon's animals is not enough to cleanse from sin: Lebanon was not only famous for its cedar trees, but for the multitude of its animals, including the lion and the leopard, yet the LORD says, even all the blood of Lebanon's animals would not be enough to cleanse from sin. There was only one blood type that had the right DNA to cleanse us and make us whiter than snow in the eyes of God and it was not in an animal, but a man whose name was Jesus (Isaiah 40:16).

NAHUM 1:5-6

The Great Power of God.

- **Nahum 1:5-6:** The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. ⁶Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

Ponder for a moment: the awesome picture of the LORD the faithful of the Old Testament had in their minds of God when He intervened in history to judge the inhabitants of the earth. They did not see God as a Santa Claus type God, but one who was so mighty, and so powerful even the mountains and hills would melt in fear as He walked past them and all the inhabitants of the earth would be gripped in terror. When the cup of iniquity on this earth is full once again God will again intervene in man's history and walk this planet in judgment, the mountains will again quake before him; the hills melt; and all who dwell in the world will stand in awe and be overtaken by fear. Perhaps the earth is in the beginning of these

birth pains now, but there is Good News, when the labour pains are over the earth will give birth to an entirely New Age of eternal happiness, justice for all, righteousness, peace and eternal glory, the sons and daughters of God will be manifested to the nations and Christ will be ruling and reigning as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's glory on the earth. For further information see the title: "Jesus Return as King of kings and Lord of lords," at the end of this study.

NAHUM 1:7

God knows those who are His.

- **Nahum 1:7:** The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

How comforting are these words for all who belong to the LORD, many who believe in Christ may be in difficult or troublesome circumstances, they can be confused and even messed up, others may judge them or at the very least think that they are outside of God's Kingdom, but anyone in these circumstances can rest in Nahum words, if you are looking to God for refuge and salvation, He knows you belong to Him even if others don't. When God's final and climatic judgment comes to this earth and natural disasters abound in strength and destruction, those who look to God for refuge can rest in the faith that the LORD knows they belong to Him and that God is about to deliver His family into a world of eternal joy and eternal glory.

NAHUM 1:8-10

No-one can stand against the LORD.

- **Nahum 1:8-10:** But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness. ⁹What do you plot against the LORD? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time. ¹⁰For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

The cruelty of the Assyrians was almost beyond belief their policy seems to have been one of brutal cruelty and calculated terror. Their own pictures show captives staked to the ground and being skinned alive!

NAHUM 1:11-12

- **Nahum 1:11-12:** From you (Nineveh) came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor. ¹²Thus says the LORD, "Though they (Nineveh) are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though (the LORD) I have afflicted you (Israel), I will afflict you no more.

NOTICE: God takes credit for Israel's affliction.

The worthless counsellor: the worthless counsellor probably refers to the king of Assyria's spokesman (the Rabshakeh) who mocked Hezekiah, the people of Judah and God. Shal-maneser king of Assyria invaded the land of Samaria and took Israel captive. Later Sennacherib king of Assyria took all the fortified cities of Judah then sent his spokesman the Rabshakeh to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. The Rabshakeh told Judah not to let Hezekiah deceive them, or make them trust in the LORD, or mislead them by saying, the LORD will deliver them. The Rabshakeh told Judah if they resist the king of Assyria, they are doomed to eat their own dung and to drink their own urine?" But Assyria was never able to take Jerusalem (2 Kings 18:1-37).

God will Destroy Nineveh.

- **Nahum 1:13-14:** And now I will break his (Nineveh) yoke from off you (Israel) and will burst your bonds apart." ¹⁴The LORD has given commandment about you (Nineveh): "No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile."

Micah's prophetic words were fulfilled through Babylon: Israel set their hearts diamond hard against the word of God's prophets they rebelled against the LORD they turned to other gods and entered into gross sin so the LORD used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon (who He called His servant (Jer. 25:9) to bring the curses of the covenant upon them. The fierce armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah, laid their farm land waste, attacked Jerusalem and pillaged the temple and took the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the two tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the ten tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods. While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar, Israel and Judah went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave written permission for Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel and Judah back to their beloved city Jerusalem as one united nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to idols or pagan gods again). Multitudes of Jewish families who had been scattered throughout the nations returned to Jerusalem and the land of Israel with triumphant joy and rejoicing. When the temple of God was completed their faith was once again established and a time of prosperity and peace followed Sadly Israel as a nation never recognised their Messiah the Christ when he came, but even this was in the LORD'S sovereign will. The prophet Zechariah tells us when, the Lord returns in glory:

- God will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10-14).

NAHUM 1:15

Behold Him who Brings Good News.

- **Nahum 1:15:** Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who *brings good news*, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.

The feet of him who brings good news applies to Israel's and Judah's prophets who predict the destruction of their enemies and the glory of Jerusalem, but the following verses show they also carry and echo of the Lord Jesus Christ who came with the Good News of the Gospel proclaiming, salvation is by faith and not the works of the law.

Paul in the New Testament Quotes Nahum.

- But how are they to call on him (Jesus) in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!*" (Romans 10:14-15).

Jesus said of Himself:

- The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim *good news* to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed. (Luke 4:18).
- Soon afterward he (Jesus) went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the *good news* of the kingdom of God. (Luke 8:1).

Philip proclaimed the Good News about Jesus.

- Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the *good news about Jesus*. (Acts 8:35).

Paul preached the Good News about Jesus.

- As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching *good news* of peace *through Jesus Christ* (he is Lord of all). (Acts 10:36).

Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the Good News Promised to the Fathers.

- We (Paul and Barnabas) bring you the *good news* that what God promised to the fathers. (Acts 13:32).

JESUS RETURN AS KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

The Lord will return in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev.

20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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