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## Nahum 2

(2019)

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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 2.

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### Topics.

- The scatterer has come up against Nineveh.
- Assyria has previously plundered Israel.
- Nineveh's armies flee the city.
- Nineveh is plundered by its enemies.
- Nineveh is likened to a lion's den.
- The LORD is against Nineveh.

**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.

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### NAHUM 2:1

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#### The Scatterer has Come up Against Nineveh.

- **Nahum 2:1:** The scatterer has come up against you (Nineveh). Man the ramparts; watch the road; dress for battle; collect all your strength.

**The scatterer:** refers to the fierce armies of Babylon which the LORD called His servant (Jer. 25:8-9).

The LORD warns the city of Nineveh to prepare for battle (verse eight shows that the vision concerns Nineveh). God uses secular nations to achieve his plans and purposes, He used Assyria to bring Judgment on Israel in the land of Samaria, because of their gross sins, their rebellion, their idols and worship of pagan gods, and is now about to use Babylon to bring Judgment on Assyria for the way they treated Israel while in captivity.

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### NAHUM 2:2

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#### Assyria has Previously Plundered Israel.

- **Nahum 2:2:** For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers (Assyria) have plundered them (Israel), and ruined their branches.
- To restore the majesty of Israel, the LORD used Babylon.

Babylon invaded the land of Assyria and defeated Nineveh the capitol of Assyria, then destroyed Jerusalem and took the inhabitants into captivity. Both Judah and Israel were under Babylonian rule for seventy years. While in captivity the LORD moulded Judah and Israel like a master potter

moulds a beautiful clay jar, at the end of the seventy years Israel and Judah returned to Jerusalem as one united people called Israel with one faith and one God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

### **Nineveh's Armies Flee the City.**

- **Nahum 2:3-8:** The shield of his (the LORD'S) mighty men is red; his soldiers are clothed in scarlet. The chariots (of the LORD'S armies) come with flashing metal on the day he musters them; the cypress spears are brandished. <sup>4</sup>The chariots race madly through the streets (of Nineveh); they rush to and fro through the squares; they gleam like torches; they dart like lightning. <sup>5</sup>He (the LORD) remembers his officers; they stumble as they go, they hasten to the wall (of Nineveh); the siege tower is set up. <sup>6</sup>The river gates (of Nineveh) are opened; the palace melts away; <sup>7</sup>its mistress is stripped; she is carried off, her slave girls lamenting, moaning like doves and beating their breasts. <sup>8</sup>Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry, but none turns back.

In Nahum's vision he sees the city of Nineveh being taken by the LORD'S armies (Babylon) and the soldiers of Nineveh's armies fleeing the city in fear, the inhabitants of Nineveh are calling out to their soldiers to stop running, but they are so afraid none of them turns back.

The LORD'S army at this time is Babylon. The following are some examples of God using secular nations to achieve His plans and purposes:

- God actually paid Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon wages because he and his armies laboured and worked for God. The land of Egypt was the wages God paid King Nebuchadnezzar (Ezek. 29:18-20).
- God used Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon to Judge Tyre and Egypt (Ezekiel 26:7) (Ezekiel 30:10).
- The LORD says, He will strengthen the King of Babylon by putting God's sword in his hand (Ezek. 30:24-25).
- God calls the armies of a secular nation that He is about to use to execute His word of judgment on His people because of their gross sins, their rebellion, their idols and worship of pagan gods, His army (Joel 2:11).
- The armies of secular nations that destroyed Jerusalem and defeated Israel and Judah throughout history God calls His great army which He sent among them (Joel 2:25).

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### **NAHUM 2:9-10**

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#### **Nineveh is plundered by its Enemies.**

- **Nahum 2:9-10:** Plunder the silver, plunder the gold! (of Nineveh) There is no end of the treasure or of the wealth of all precious things. <sup>10</sup>Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale!

In Nahum's vision he sees Nineveh's enemies taking all the wealth of the defeated city and its palaces, while all its inhabitants look on in fear.

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### **NAHUM 2:11-12**

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#### **Nineveh is likened to a Lion's Den.**

- **Nahum 2:11-12:** Where is the lions' den, the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion and lioness went, where his cubs were, with none to disturb? <sup>12</sup>The lion tore enough for his cubs and strangled prey for his lionesses; he filled his caves with prey and his dens with torn flesh.

The lion's den refers to Nineveh the capitol of Assyria, the young lions refers to the nations that are allied with Nineveh. Nineveh is pictured as a strong lion that protected and feed its people (cubs) and made them wealthy by destroying and killing others.

**The LORD is against Nineveh.**

- **Nahum 2:13:** Behold, I am against you (Nineveh), declares the LORD of hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your (Nineveh), prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard.

The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. During this period of history God is about to use Babylon to destroy Nineveh because of the way the Assyrians have treated and oppressed Israel.

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*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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