

Nahum

God’s Consuming Wrath			
P/C	Nahum 1:1-8		Comments
P	Nahum 1:1 The burden (oracle) against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.		Nineveh was the Assyrian capital city. It was led by Sennacherib from 705-681 BC. Ashurbanipal was its last great king; he ruled 668 to at least 635 BC. This oracle likely dates between 663 BC and 612 BC. Nineveh fell in 612 BC. They were brought down by the Babylonians who were allied with the Medes.
A	Nahum 1:2-3 ² God <i>is</i> jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and <i>is</i> furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves <i>wrath</i> for His enemies; ³ The LORD <i>is</i> slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit <i>the wicked</i> . The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds <i>are</i> the dust of His feet.	Nahum 1:6-8 ⁶ Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him. ⁷ The LORD <i>is</i> good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him. ⁸ But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.	Wrath is coming to YHVV’s enemies; They can’t endure the fierceness of His wrath. However, YHVV will be a refuge for those who trust in Him.
B	Nahum 1:4-5 ⁴ He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. ⁵ The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.		YHVV will use natural means to cause destruction.

Plotting Against YHVH			
C	Nahum 1:9-11		Comments
A	Nahum 1:9a ⁹ What do you conspire against the LORD?	Nahum 1:11 ¹¹ From you comes forth <i>one</i> Who plots evil against the LORD, A wicked counselor.	A wicked counselor devises evil against YHVH
B	Nahum 1:9b-10 He will make an utter end of <i>it</i> . Affliction will not rise up a second time. ¹⁰ For while tangled <i>like</i> thorns, And while drunken <i>like</i> drunkards, They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.		YHVH will destroy them.

Breaking the Yoke			
P	Nahum 1:12-14		Comments
A	Nahum 1:12-13 ¹² Thus says the LORD: "Though <i>they are</i> safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more; ¹³ For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart."	Nahum 1:14 ¹⁴ The LORD has given a command concerning you: "Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile."	Words of YHVH The yoke of Nineveh, likely political domination, will be broken; their carved and molded image will be cut off. Their main gods were Ashur and Ishtar – goddess of love and war. There were other lesser deities as well. Their grave will be dug.

Good News for Judah			
C	Nahum 2:1-3		Comments
A	Nahum 2:1 He who scatters has come up before your face. Man the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen <i>your</i> flanks! Fortify <i>your</i> power mightily.	Nahum 2:3 ³ The shields of his mighty men <i>are</i> made red, The valiant men <i>are</i> in scarlet. The chariots <i>come</i> with flaming torches In the day of his preparation, And the spears are brandished.	Central Focus of Nahum: Salvation has come with YHVH's army – the combined Medean and Chaldean (Babylonian) army. Red or scarlet likely represent blood.

			YHWH uses the Medes and Babylonians to throw off the yoke of the Assyrians.
B	Nahum 2:2 ² For the LORD will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.		YHWH will restore Jacob, so they would no longer be a vassal state of the Assyrian empire.

The Destruction of Nineveh			
C	Nahum 2:4-11		Comments
A	Nahum 2:4-6 ⁴ The chariots rage in the streets, They jostle one another in the broad roads; They seem like torches, They run like lightning. ⁵ He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their walk; They make haste to her walls, And the defense is prepared. ⁶ The gates of the rivers are opened, And the palace is dissolved.	Nahum 2:11 ¹¹ Where <i>is</i> the dwelling of the lions, And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion walked, the lioness <i>and</i> lion's cub, And no one made <i>them</i> afraid?	There is chaos in the midst of destruction. Lions are a metaphor for the Assyrians.
B	Nahum 2:7-8 ⁷ It is decreed: She shall be led away captive, She shall be brought up; And her maidservants shall lead <i>her</i> as with the voice of doves, Beating their breasts. ⁸ Though Nineveh of old <i>was</i> like a pool of water, Now they flee away. "Halt! Halt!" <i>they cry</i> ; But no one turns back.	Nahum 2:9-10 ⁹ Take spoil of silver! Take spoil of gold! <i>There is</i> no end of treasure, Or wealth of every desirable prize. ¹⁰ She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain <i>is</i> in every side, And all their faces are drained of color.	There will be fear, exile, seizing of plunder, and desolation.

Ruin Imminent and Inevitable			
P	Nahum 2:12-3:6		Comments
A	Nahum 2:12 ¹² The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs, Killed for his lionesses, Filled his caves with prey, And his dens with flesh.	Nahum 3:1-4 Woe to the bloody city! <i>It is</i> all full of lies <i>and</i> robbery. <i>Its</i> victim never departs. ² The noise of a whip And the noise of rattling wheels, Of galloping horses, Of clattering chariots! ³ Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. <i>There is</i> a multitude of slain, A	The lion and seductive harlot are metaphors of Nineveh. It's dens are filled with dead bodies. It is engaged with harlotry, sorcery, and murder.

		great number of bodies, Countless corpses-- They stumble over the corpses-- ⁴ Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, The mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries, And families through her sorceries.	
B	Nahum 2:13 ¹³ "Behold, I <i>am</i> against you," says the LORD of hosts, "I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."	Nahum 3:5-6 ⁵ "Behold, I <i>am</i> against you," says the LORD of hosts; "I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness, And the kingdoms your shame. ⁶ I will cast abominable filth upon you, Make you vile, And make you a spectacle.	YHWH is against Nineveh; He will destroy their young and cause them to be a shameful spectacle.

Nineveh is Laid Waste			
C	Nahum 3:7-19		Comments
A	Nahum 3:7 ⁷ It shall come to pass <i>that</i> all who look upon you Will flee from you, and say, ' Nineveh is laid waste! Who will bemoan her?' Where shall I seek comforters for you?"	Nahum 3:19 ¹⁹ Your injury <i>has</i> no healing, Your wound is severe. All who hear news of you Will clap <i>their</i> hands over you, For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?	People will flee from Nineveh. The damage caused by wickedness can't be healed. No one will feel sorry for Nineveh because their wickedness was continually upon everyone.
B	Nahum 3:8-11 ⁸ Are you better than No Amon <i>That</i> was situated by the River, That had the waters around her, Whose rampart <i>was</i> the sea, Whose wall <i>was</i> the sea? ⁹ Ethiopia and Egypt <i>were</i> her strength, And <i>it</i> was boundless; Put and Lubim were your helpers. ¹⁰ Yet she <i>was</i> carried away, She went into captivity; Her young children also were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound in chains.	Nahum 3:18 ¹⁸ Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria ; Your nobles <i>rest in the dust</i> . Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them.	Nineveh is no better than their allies who were carried away or killed. They will seek refuge but will not find it. The noble will be killed; others will be scattered; and no one will gather them.

	¹¹ You also will be drunk; You will be hidden; You also will seek refuge from the enemy.		
C	<p>Nahum 3:12-13</p> <p>¹² All your strongholds <i>are</i> fig trees with ripened figs: If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater.</p> <p>¹³ Surely, your people in your midst <i>are</i> women! The gates of your land are wide open for your enemies; Fire shall devour the bars of your <i>gates</i>.</p>	<p>Nahum 3:15-17</p> <p>¹⁵ There the fire will devour you, The sword will cut you off; It will eat you up like a locust. Make yourself many-- like the locust! Make yourself many-- like the <i>swarming</i> locusts!</p> <p>¹⁶ You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.</p> <p>¹⁷ Your commanders <i>are</i> like <i>swarming</i> locusts, And your generals like great grasshoppers, Which camp in the hedges on a cold day; When the sun rises they flee away, And the place where they <i>are</i> is not known.</p>	<p>Metaphors:</p> <p>Their strongholds are open and ripe for shaking by their enemies. They will be devoured.</p> <p>Their people are compared to women. This is likely to imply weakness.</p> <p>Their commanders are compared to swarming locusts, and generals comparable to great grasshoppers -- they flee.</p>
D	<p>Nahum 3:14</p> <p>¹⁴ Draw your water for the siege! Fortify your strongholds! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Make strong the brick kiln!</p>		<p>Prepare for the siege. Fortify and seek protection in your strongholds.</p>

Surely, the fall of Nineveh is a picture of the fall of the Beast of Revelation and his armies when the Word -- Faithful and True -- comes to deliver His people in the future.

God's people must put their trust in Him for YHVH will be a refuge to those who trust in Him.