

Nahum 1

¹ **The burden against Nineveh.** The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

God's Wrath on His Enemies

★★ **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:
 ★★ **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.
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.
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 is 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.

⁹ What do you conspire against the LORD?
 He will make an utter end *of it*.
 Affliction will not rise up a second time.
¹⁰ For while tangled *like* thorns,
 And while drunken *like* drunkards,
They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.

★★ **¹¹ From you comes forth one**
Who plots evil against the LORD.
 S **A wicked counselor.**

1:1 God has retributive judgment against evil. Assyria returned to evil a century later after her repentance in the time of Jonah. 670 B.C.
 1:3 Not at all acquit the wicked.
 1:11 This phrase literally is “counselor of Belial,” suggesting Satanic influence on the leadership.

¹² Thus says the LORD:

“Though *they are* 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.”

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.”**

¹⁵ Behold, on the mountains

The feet of him who brings good tidings,
Who proclaims peace!

O Judah, keep your appointed feasts,
Perform your vows.

For the wicked one shall no more pass through you;
He is utterly cut off.

Nahum 2

The Destruction of Nineveh

¹ He who scatters has come up before your face.

Man the fort!

Watch the road!

Strengthen *your* flanks!

Fortify *your* power mightily.

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.

³ The shields of his mighty men *are* made red,

The valiant men *are* in scarlet.

The chariots *come* with flaming torches

In the day of his preparation,

And the spears are brandished.

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.

1:13 Judah will no longer be afflicted by Assyria.

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⁷ It is decreed:
She shall be led away captive,
She shall be brought up;
And her maidservants shall lead *her* as with the voice of doves,
Beating their breasts.
⁸ Though Nineveh of old *was* like a pool of water,
Now they flee away.

“Halt! Halt!” *they cry*;
But no one turns back.
⁹ Take spoil of silver!
Take spoil of gold!
There is 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 *is* in every side,
And all their faces are drained of color.

¹¹ Where *is* the dwelling of the lions,
And the feeding place of the young lions,
Where the lion walked, the lioness *and* lion’s cub,
And no one made *them* afraid?
¹² The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs,
Killed for his lionesses,
Filled his caves with prey,
And his dens with flesh.

¹³ “Behold, I am 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

The Woe of Nineveh

¹ Woe to the bloody city!
It *is* all full of lies *and* robbery.
Its 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.

There is a multitude of slain,
A 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.

⁵ “Behold, I am against you.” says the LORD of hosts:

3:4 Assyria was like a beautiful prostitute that seduced nations with her illicit enticements.

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"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.

⁷ It shall come to pass *that* 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?"

⁸ **Are you better than No Amon
That was situated by the River,**
That had the waters around her,
Whose rampart was the sea,
Whose wall was the sea?

⁹ Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength,
And *it* was boundless;
Put and Lubim were your helpers.

¹⁰ Yet she was 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.

¹¹ You also will be drunk;
You will be hidden;
You also will seek refuge from the enemy.

¹² **All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs:
If they are shaken,
They fall into the mouth of the eater.**

¹³ Surely, your people in your midst *are* women!
The gates of your land are wide open for your enemies;
Fire shall devour the bars of your *gates*.

¹⁴ Draw your water for the siege!
Fortify your strongholds!
Go into the clay and tread the mortar!
Make strong the brick kiln!

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 *swarming* locusts!

¹⁶ You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven.
The locust plunders and flies away.

¹⁷ Your commanders *are* like *swarming* 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 *are* is not known.

¹⁸ Your shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria;
Your nobles rest *in the dust*.

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Your people are scattered on the mountains,
And no one gathers them.

¹⁹ Your injury *has* no healing,
Your wound is severe.

All who hear news of you

Will clap *their* hands over you,

For upon whom has not your wickedness passed continually?