

Nahum: The Book Jonah Wished He Had Written

Introduction

The book of Nahum is the ninth shortest book in the Bible containing 1,285 words. Nahum is considered by many to be the most impassioned of all the prophets.

I. The Author— Nothing is known of the human author of this brief prophecy except that he is Nahum the Elkoshite. The word Nahum means “comfort” or “consolation.” The location of Elkosh is uncertain. Some have suggested that it was Capernaum (Hebrew: *Kaphar Nahum*, Nahum's town). However, because of Nahum's concern for Judah (1:12, 15) it is probably best to place its location somewhere in Judah.

II. The Audience—Nahum was written to Judah sometime between 663 B.C. and 612 B.C. foretelling the doom of the Assyrian city of Nineveh.

III. The Aim— The purpose of Nahum is to comfort the people of Judah by announcing the coming destruction of Nineveh because of her insatiable appetite for violence and plunder.

IV. The Arrangement

NAHUM

	The Character and Power of God His majestic attributes and abilities in contrast to humanity's schemes <u>CHAPTER 1</u>	The Judgment of God <u>Predicted and described</u> <u>Justified and defended</u> <u>Inevitable and inescapable</u> CHAPTERS 2-3
Content	Theological	Prophetical
Emphasis	The majestic character of our sovereign God qualifies Him to be the Judge over all.	Nineveh's willful and heartless decline justifies the judgment of almighty God.
Theme	The impending doom of Ninevah, capital of Assyria	
Key Verses	1:3; 3:1	
Christ in Nahum	Christ will judge the nations, freeing His people once and for all from their enemies.	

V. The Analysis

Nineveh's Destruction Declared (1) *The Revelation* WHO will destroy Nineveh

- A. Because of God's Character (2-8)
 - 1. Jealousy and Wrath (2, 6, 8)
 - 2. Slow to Anger (3a)
 - 3. Powerful (3b-5)
 - 4. Goodness (7)

- B. Because of Nineveh's Corruption (9-14)

- C. Because of Judah's Comfort (15)

Nineveh's Destruction Described (2) *The Ruin* HOW will He destroy Nineveh

- A. The Announcement (1-2)

- B. The Attack (3-6) The warriors of the Babylonians and the Medes with their shields and chariots are vividly pictured. The flooding of the city that occurred when the Khosr inundated the city is prophesied in 2:6.

- C. The Aftermath (7-10) Plundered and stripped bare.

- D. The Analogy (11-13) Assyria often pictured itself as a great lion that preyed upon others. Now the tables have been turned. Assyria's den will be invaded and destroyed, and her young lions will be devoured by the sword.

Nineveh's Destruction Deserved (3) *The Reasons* WHY will He destroy Nineveh

- A. Because of Violence (1-3)
- B. Because of False Religion (4- 7)
- C. Because of Pride (8-15)
- D. Because of Materialism (16-19)

VI. The Application