

Nahum – 4 June 2026

“When Justice Prevails”

Introduction – Read Vs 1

*Little is known of Nahum & his hometown is unknown

*NT city of Capernaum means *town of Nahum*

*2 prophets were instructed to write about Assyria

#1 - Jonah wrote at height of their power, 8th century

*Though Assyria repents, they returned to evil

*Assyria ruled much of Egypt including Thebes

*Mentioned in Nah 3:8 as past tense

*After taking Israel, Assyria suffered a major defeat as God turned them back from Hez in Jerusalem

#2 - Nahum now writes 660BC-612BC at the time of Assyria's fading & Babylon conquers in 612BC

*Hez's evil son Manasseh reigns during this time

You ever thought something was beyond God's control or out of scope of the Bible – like God didn't care

This book seems like something “we don’t care about” – God will judge Assyria (so what)

We have personal issues somethings that we think God overlooks or isn’t important enough to Him

Let this book remind us that see everything - & won’t allow any injustice to go uncorrected

Today, we look at 3 things that will happen when justice prevails

#1 – God will be seen in strength & control (Chap 1)

Read 1:2-8

1. The character of God is the focus here
 - a. He’s meek but can’t forget to bring judgment (vs 2-3)
 - b. He controls the power of creation (vs 4-6)
 - c. His strength & action are good (vs 7)
 - d. He controls who He applies His power upon (vs 7-8)

2. So God is powerful but not random or arbitrary
 - a. If He brings judgement, it's for good reason

Read 1:9-11

1. The leader of Assyria, called a vile counsellor, will rise against Israel & her God
 - a. Yet he'll be helpless against the Lord
2. When the Lord decides to action, it will be complete – He won't need to act a second time

Read 1:12-13

1. The waxing or weaning strength of man doesn't determine God's decision
 - a. When He wants to act, He acts
2. He allowed Assyria to afflict Israel for a time
 - a. But the moment God wants it to end, it does
3. There is no one that can have control over us, unless the Lord allows it to be so

Read 1:14

1. This cutting off of descendants happened to the house of their gods immediately

- a. Their god was Asshur – chief political god
 - b. Once Assyria fell to Babylon, he was never again worshipped - His seed was “no longer”
2. The people themselves reached their peak in 700 BC with about 6-10 million people, never to reach those numbers again in world history
 - a. Seems they’ll be yet totally wiped out

Read 1:15

1. This is a beautiful celebration in expectation that God will deliver Israel from their enemy
 - a. This applies to Israel in Nahum’s lifetime
 - b. This also applies to all in the church age
2. Paul quotes this verse & Isa 52:7 in Rom 10:15
 - a. Jesus will destroy the power of the enemy and deliver His people (Nah 1:15)
 - b. It’s beautiful to proclaim that Jesus is worthy to believe in – Jesus can save (Isa 52:7)

#2 – Our enemies will understand their lack of control (Chap 2)

Read 2:1-2

1. As the Lord comes against Assyria, it's restoration to Israel
 - a. One action by God & it has different results
 - b. Which side of God are we on?

Read 2:3-7

1. Before it happens, we have a vivid portrait of Ninevah ready to fall to Babylonians in the future
 - a. God's mighty men ready for battle
 - b. Assyria sets up the wall to defend the city
2. Yet Assyria can see their defeat in their heart before seeing it with their eyes

Read 2:8-12

1. Lion of Assyria will be completely destroyed
2. No silver or gold left within the city

- a. Archaeological ruins of Ninevah were excavated in the 1800s by French & British
- b. Didn't find as much silver or gold as they thought they would – b/c they didn't read this

Read 2:13

1. Words we never want to hear from God, “Behold, I am against you”
2. 612 BC was the last time that Assyria held any influence over the world

#3 – We will learn not to trust ourselves (Chap 3)

Read 3:1-4

1. The city that shed the blood of others, will have her own blood shed – for her sins
2. She didn't shed blood directly but thru harlotries & sorceries
 - a. Sinners say their lusts & enchantments are fun & good – yet they led to bloodshed
 - b. Read Prov 14:12 (& 16:25)

Read 3:5-7

1. Ninevah, like many, think they're so strong in their position – but their vulnerability will be seen
2. When God shows His strength, none can stand
 - a. To uncover their nakedness is to expose their true identity and frailty
 - b. Don't act like we're something when we're actually nothing – but the Lord is something
3. If God be for us, none can stand against us; but if God is against us, none can make us stand

Read 3:8-11

1. City of No, which worshipped the god Amon, was the Egyptian city Thebes (Luxor today)
2. In 663BC Thebes fell to the Assyrians
 - a. Talking of this helps us date the book
 - b. Everyone knew of this event – a big deal
3. God is telling Assyria – you're no better than the city that I allowed you to conquer
 - a. Read Luke 13:1-5 - Don't consider yourselves any better than anyone else

- b. We're all opposed to God until we come into confession of His rule over our lives

Read 3:12-15

1. Don't trust your defense
2. All your preparation for battle will mean nothing in the day your battle against the Lord
 - a. All your money means nothing, in the day the Lord brings financial collapse for your sin
 - b. All your might means nothing, in the day the Lord brings sickness for your sin
3. There's nothing we can collect that will protect us in the day we try standing against the Lord

Read 3:16-19

1. Don't trust your merchants to keep the economy going
2. Don't trust your shepherds to keep national morality going
3. Your wound is too deep – your effects on others are too great – prepare for destruction
4. Read Psm 20:7 – “...we will trust in God”

Conclusion

The God the Nahum served & worshipped, is the same one we serve & worship today

Our God is a justice giving God – there's a day that justice will prevail

1. **God will be seen in strength & control**
2. **Our enemies will understand their lack of control**
3. **We will learn not to trust ourselves**

Hopefully we've already learned....

- Not to trust ourselves but to trust Jesus
- that God is powerful and gets His way
- Not to fret about those opposed to us