

The Book of Nahum
Lesson 1 – September 8th, 2019

Bible Reading: Nahum 1:1-3

Key Terms:

- Oracle
- Nineveh
- Nahum

Key Questions & Answers:

- What is an oracle?
- What is Nineveh? Where is it?
- How does Nineveh relate to the Nineveh in the Book of Jonah?
- What does “book of the vision” mean? Where would this have vision come from?
- Who is Nahum

Lesson One

Devotion

- Congregation at Prayer

Authorship

- Through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Prophet Nahum penned what we know as the Book of Nahum.
- It was written ca. 650.
- Other notable prophets during the 7th Century: Habakkuk and Zephaniah.
- The book is addressed to the king, nobles, and troops of Assyria.
- They are also words of comfort for the people of Judah.
- As both Jonah and Nahum preached to the Ninevites, it’s good to compare the two writings.
- Book of Jonah was written c 790 BC. Nahum would have come roughly 140 years later.

Historical Context

- Israel, that is the Northern Kingdom has already fallen. It was destroyed by Assyria in (722 BC).
- Judah is the only one left.
- The Book of Nahum is written during the time when Assyria is strong and threatening to overtake Judah as well.
- This takes places prior to Assyria’s demise and the Babylonian exile.

The Book of Nahum and the Book of the Twelve

- The Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets) has been described as a twelve person choir. In this choir, Nahum would sing the single bass line of “judgement.” While he doesn’t say much more than judgment, each part is important, including his.
- The Book of the Twelve are not arranged chronologically. Why would that be? Some think its arranged theologically – Law then Gospel.
- In the Book of Jonah, we see that God is merciful to those who repent. Micah follows, as the middle of book of the Book of the Twelve.
- He speaks of the crucifixion and resurrection of Israel. Nahum comes next, continuing to bear witness to the character of God.
- God’s revelation about His Name as seen in Exodus 34:6-7; ““The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”
- Books such as Jonah, proclaim the first part of God’s name, “Slow to anger...” Prophets, such as Nahum, proclaim the second part, “The LORD will by no means clear the guilty...”

We look at the Book of the Twelve as a whole. No one prophet stands alone.

Outline

- 1) Superscription (1:1)
- 2) The Divine Warrior (1:2-15)
 - a) A partial acrostic poem of Yahweh’s wrath and mercy (1:2-8)
 - b) Doom for Nineveh and deliverance for Judah (1:9-15)
- 3) The future destruction of Nineveh (2:1-3:19)
 - a) Nineveh besieged and pillaged (2:1-10)
 - b) The lion taunt (2:11-13)
 - c) Woe to the city of bloodshed (3:1-3)
 - d) The Sorceress-prostitute taunt (3:4-7)
 - e) The comparison with Thebes taunt (3:8-11)
 - f) Final taunts (3:12-19).