

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of NAHUM

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INTRODUCTION

1) The name Nahum, which is a shortened form of the name Nehemiah, means “_____” or “_____.” Nahum’s prophecy, however, would have been anything but a comfort or consolation to the _____ to whom he prophesied.

2) Nahum is the sequel to the Book of _____.

- Both prophets, about one hundred years apart, warned Nineveh of God’s coming judgment.
- What Jonah had hoped for—God’s judgment poured out upon the wicked Assyrians—was predicted by the pen of the prophet Nahum.
- His prophecy has been called “*Nineveh’s _____ Song.*”

3) Historical Background

- Assyria was the dominant power in the Middle East from around 900-612 B. C.
- Her conquests were extensive, her warfare cruel, her rule oppressive, and her records of exploit boastful.
- Before Nahum’s day, Assyria had repeatedly harassed, invaded, and oppressed both Judah and Israel for many years.
- In 733 B. C. Assyria conquered most of Israel’s territory and carried away most of her people.
- Finally, in _____ B. C., Assyria captured Israel’s capital city, Samaria, and carried away many more of her people, thus bringing the Northern Kingdom of Israel to an end.
- The city of Nineveh was the _____ of Assyria.
- Located on the Tigris River, she was a huge, strongly fortified city with immense walls and towers.
- She was a very wealthy commercial city—filled with the booty of many Assyrian military conquests.
- The idolatrous, evil, and very proud city of Nineveh was ripe for the coming destruction predicted by Nahum.

4) The prophecy of Nahum forms a beautiful, vivid, pictorial poem on the glory, power, and justice of God, and on the conflict between Jehovah and the cruel, defiant world empire of Assyria.

AUTHORSHIP

Traditional view: _____ wrote the book (**1:1**). He was probably a prophet of Judah (**1:15**). His father and hometown is unknown.

RECIPIENTS

Nahum was written to _____ the people of Judah.

- Assyria not only conquered the Northern Kingdom (722 B. C.), but about 20 years later also made invasions against the Southern Kingdom (**See 2 Kings 18:13ff**).
- Nahum’s prophesy would have encouraged Judah to see that Jehovah would vindicate His holiness on the inhumane brutality of the ruthless Assyrian empire.

DATE OF WRITING

Nahum refers to the fall of Thebes (*Hebrew—“No”*), capital city of Egypt, that occurred in 661 B. C. (**3:8-10**).

Nineveh fell, as prophesied, in _____ B.C. Therefore, Nahum’s ministry would have been sometime after the fall of Thebes and before the fall of Nineveh. His ministry was probably between 650 B. C. and 612 B. C.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

- **Historical** = To comfort the _____ in Judah by describing Jehovah’s destruction of Nineveh.
- **Doctrinal** = To demonstrate the _____ of God in dealing with evil (**See Psalm 9:17**).
- **Christological** = Christ is seen as the Bringer of good tidings and peace (**1:15**).

THEME OF THE BOOK

God's _____ upon Nineveh.

OUTLINE

- I. Nineveh's Doom Declared **(1)**
- II. Nineveh's Doom Described **(2)**
- III. Nineveh's Doom Deserved **(3)**