

# The End of Nineveh Nahum

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## Background

1. The Man – Nahum – “comfort,”  
“compassion”
  - An Elkoshite- from Elkosh
  - from the southern kingdom of Judah

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## Background

2. The Time –
  - after the fall of Israel – 722
  - During the height of the Assyrian Empire under Ashurbanipal - 668-627 B.C.
  - The Assyrian Empire began to collapse after his death

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## Background

### 2. The Time

- Assyria was destroyed in 612 B.C.
- 3:8 indicates that Thebes had been destroyed
- 300 miles Upstream from Cairo
- Destroyed by Assyria in 663 B.C.

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## Background

### 2. The Time

- Nahum wrote between 663 and 612 B.C.
- Most likely during the middle years of Ashurbanipal – 668 - 627

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## Background

### 3. The Book

- An oracle against Nineveh (Assyria)
- NOTE!
- The downfall of Assyria has been characterized as one of the greatest riddles of world history
- The country seems to have fallen with appalling suddenness into obscurity

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## Background

### 3. The Book

- Two sections
  - Chapter 1
  - Chapter 2-3
- Chapter 2-3 is a more detailed exposition of chapter 1

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## Background

### 4. The Message

- Given to Judah to encourage them through the hard times of oppression from Assyria
- They were to look to God for their deliverance

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## Background

### 4. The Message

- Even though the Assyrians were God's instruments for disciplining Israel, they are being judged by God for their excessive cruelty and for a failure to acknowledge God's sovereignty in their rise to power

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## Chapter 1

Vs 2-8 – Hymn of praise to God as the ‘divine warrior’

Vs 9-15 – a courtroom scene of verdicts – both judgements and acquittals

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## Chapter 1

Hymn of Praise

- Based on God’s justice and righteousness
- Praises God’s sovereignty over the whole world
- God is jealous for His covenant people

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## Chapter 1

The Lord pours out wrath

The Lord is patient

The Lord judges

The Lord is sovereign

The Lord judges

The Lord is good

The Lord destroys

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## Chapter 1

Vs 9-11 – The charge against Nineveh

Vs 12-15 – verdicts

- Nineveh is guilty – vs 12a,14
- Judah is acquitted – vs 12b, 13, 15

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## Chapter 2-3

- A more detailed description of the destruction of Nineveh
- A poetic description of the final battle
- See 2:3-6, 9-10; 3:2-3

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## Chapter 2-3

2:11-13

- metaphor of a mighty lion that no longer has any strength
- the lion has now become the prey

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## Chapter 2-3

3:1 – Woe – usually denotes destruction and mourning

3:4-7 – metaphor of a prostitute

•NOTE the similarities between 2:13 and 3:5

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## Chapter 2-3

3:8 – another rhetorical question

• See 2:11

•To amplify the judgment

•It involves a recognition of the guilt

•Just like the fall of mighty Thebes, so too will Nineveh fall

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## Chapter 2-3

3:12-15 – the uselessness and powerlessness of Nineveh's army and defenses

3:16- The uselessness and powerlessness of Nineveh's economy

3:17-18 – The uselessness and powerlessness of Nineveh's leadership

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## Chapter 2-3

3:19 – The final verdict

- Closes with another rhetorical question

NOTE!

One other minor prophet ends with a rhetorical question....

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## Chapter 2-3

3:19 – The final verdict

- Closes with another rhetorical question

NOTE!

One other minor prophet ends with a rhetorical question....

The prophet Jonah

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## Conclusion/Summary

- Nahum prophecies of the Assyrian collapse in order to encourage Judah to trust God
- God is sovereign over the nations
- God will judge according to His righteousness and justice
- God will make all things right in His timing

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