

Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure! Isa 46:10

Nahum

The Destruction of Nineveh

39 books in OT

Introduction to Nahum

Author - Nahum the Elkoshite 1:1

Nahum means consolation or full of comfort

No other reference to Elkoshite in Bible or ancient literature

Two theories on where he lived

Capernaum - village of Nahum

Town in southern Judah

Nahum is one of 8 books not directly quoted in NT

Introduction to Nahum

Date of Nahum

Not Known - no exact reference

Two events in the prophecy give a range

Battle of Thebes (3:8) - 663 BC

Destruction of Nineveh - 612 BC

During reigns of Hezekiah and Manasseh

Isaiah told Hezekiah that Babylon would conquer them

Introduction to Nahum

Summary of Nahum

The complete and final destruction of Nineveh, capital of Assyria

Assyria had conquered Northern Kingdom in 722 BC (2 Kings 17)

Nahum (consolation or full of comfort) gave a message of encouragement to Judah (Southern Kingdom) that Assyria would not do the same to them.

The book of Nahum is like reading news of today

Destruction of Nineveh would be like saying in 10 years Washington DC will be forever laid waste

Nahum is prophesying to Judah roughly 60-100 years after the fall of Northern Kingdom

Introduction to Nahum

History of Nineveh

City built by Nimrod (Gen 10:11)

Located present day northwest Iraq (outside Mosul)



Nimrod was great grandson of Noah through Ham

Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD."

Gen 10:10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

Gen 10:11 From that land he went forth into Assyria, and built Nineveh and Rehoboth-Ir and Calah,

Gen 10:12 and Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Introduction to Nahum

Assyrian Empire

The Assyrians were known for their cruelty to the people they conquered.



They mass produced iron weapons making them the most technologically advanced army

Assyria was the lone super power of its days



Introduction to Nahum

Assyrian Empire

They also would do mass deportations of the best of the people (thousands of Jews were deported with the capture of the northern kingdom) 2 Kings 18:11

They developed the Aramic language and spread it throughout their empire



Assyria brought people from other nations to settle in Northern Kingdom
2Ki 17:24 The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sephar-vaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.

Introduction to Nahum

Who were the Assyrians?

Descendants of Shem (Semetic people)

Tradition holds that they were descendants of Abraham's grandson Dedan (son of Jokshan) I Chron 1:32

Today their descendants are mainly "Christian"



Introduction to Nahum

Setting for Nahum's prophecy

The Northern Kingdom was conquered and deported by the Assyrians.

The Southern Kingdom had supported Egypt against the Assyrians, but Egypt was defeated in 663 BC at the battle of Thebes.

Assyria was threatening to destroy Jerusalem and the Southern Kingdom.

God had miraculously defeated Sennachrib's army (2 Kings 19), but it was only a matter of time before they would return.

Nahum is prophesying the complete of total destruction of the capitol of the world's superpower!

Introduction to Nahum

Outline of Nahum

- I. God's Sovereign Power 1:15**
 - A. God's Character 1:1-8**
 - B. God will save Judah from the Assyrians 1:9-15**
- II. Destruction of Nineveh 2:1-3:19**

Introduction to Nahum

Outline of Nahum

- I. God's Sovereign Power 1:1-15**
 - A. God's Character 1:1-8**
 - 1. Nahum, author of prophecy 1:1**
 - 2. Character of God 1:2-8**
 - a. God is jealous and avenging 1:2**

What is God jealous for? God for His name. The Assyrians were giving Ashur, their god, credit for their victories. Sennacherib had become monotheistic unlike his ancestors. He was crediting Ashur as the supreme power in the world.

Introduction to Nahum

Outline of Nahum

- b. God is slow to anger, but will punish the guilty 1:3a**
- c. God is the Almighty! Who can stand before Him! 1:3b-6**
- d. God is good to those who trust in Him, but a terror to His enemies 1:7-8**

The assyrian armies had great numbers of chariots and horses, they approach was with the speed and power of a storm and the dust of their approach could be seen for miles 1:3

God controls nature 1:4 Bashan, famous for its fat pastures and fruitful meadows, and Carmel for its rich grain fields, and Lebanon for its tall shadowy cedars, these, and the glory of all, wither and fade away, being parched and dried up for want of moisture.

1:5 - God is rules over the mts. and hills - they quake at His presence (mts. and hills often picture kings and rulers)

1:6 - Who can stand before him? Answer is obvious His anger burns like fire

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