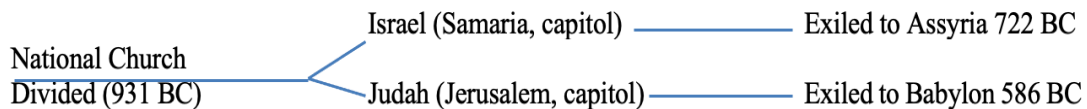


Survey of Nahum

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1. The name for Nahum means *consolation* or *comfort*. Nahum's name fits the subject matter of his prophecy since the book of Nahum concerns the destruction of the capital city of Assyria which was Nineveh (1:1).
2. The book of Nahum was written after Samaria's fall to Sargon II of Assyria in 722 B.C. and before the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 586 B.C.



3. Jonah also had a message of judgment for Nineveh yet Nineveh repented and experienced great revival. This occurred around 760 B.C. Thus, Nineveh's revival did not last long.
4. By the time of Nahum's message, Nineveh had become the mightiest city on earth. Nahum predicted that God would bring an end to it by "an overflowing flood" (1:8).
5. Nahum's major purpose was to reveal God's vengeance on his adversaries, specifically Nineveh (1:2). Nahum tells us that God had issued a command for Nineveh's destruction (1:14). Chapter 2 describes this destruction and chapter 3 reveals some of the reasons why this destruction was justly deserved.

Outline

1. Decreed Vengeance (1)
2. Described Vengeance (2)
3. Deserved Vengeance (3)

Main Points and Applications

1. Nahum reveals the kind of God we have (contrast 1:2 with 1:7). How can God be described as good yet wrathful (v.2)?

2. God delights in bringing good news to his people (1:15; 2:2). Compare Rom. 12:18-21.

3. When God pours forth his wrath it is no small slap on the hand (1:3; 2:8-10; 3:19). God promises a future judgment for all who disobey him (cf. Rom. 2:5, 6). What does God's nature and historical demonstrations of vengeance imply about the realities of hell?

4. Nineveh was known for its sin and corruption (3:1-7). God's anger is always deserved. He is righteous and just.

5. "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48). Nineveh had been given much grace under Jonah's preaching yet they obviously did not teach it to the next generation. What does God require of us to escape his judgment?

6. God doesn't just hate sin but love sinners. Though he may allow sinners to prosper for a time it is only to lead them to repentance (Rom. 2:4). Sinners who do not repent are hated by God and brought under his wrath. Consider Psalm 7:11-17.

7. We are not born into God's pleasure by biological birth (John 1:12-13). Though the Ninevites may have had Christian parents and grandparents they were in need of personal faith and repentance. We must honestly assess the spiritual condition of our children and give them the good news of God's deliverance through Christ. For anyone to see or enter heaven they must be born again (John 3:3-7).

8. Nineveh's destruction serves as an example of the inevitable destruction of everyone who seeks to destroy or seduce God's people (1:9; 1 Cor. 3:16-17).