

I. NAME AND PERSONALITY OF THE PROPHET.

- A. The name *Nahum* means "consolation" or "comfort."
- B. Nahum is from a city named Elkosh, of which we do not know the location. Some, however, have said it is in Galilee.
- C. There is little or no information on Nahum's parents, his occupation, or life's history.
- D. He was contemporary with Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah.
- E. The outrage of Nahum is against Nineveh and the Assyrians, but it is not his own. He is expressing righteous indignation against a wicked and impenitent people.

II. THE DATE OF THE BOOK AND THE PROPHET.

- A. The book of Nahum can be dated between 630 and 612BC. Nineveh fell in 612 BC. to Nebuchadnezzar and the book was written before the fall.
- B. Nahum speaks of the capture and destruction of No-Amon (Thebes) which took place in 630 BC. Therefore, the book had to have been written after this time.
- C. Approximately 150 years before Nahum's preaching Jonah had been sent by God to the same city (Nineveh). At the time of Nahum's preaching the repentance seen by Jonah is gone. Assyria is at the height of power and glory, and the height of sin.
- D. A chance for repentance is not really mentioned in the book, and there is no prospect for deliverance from God's wrath.

III. OUTLINES OF THE BOOK OF NAHUM.

A. Simple outline;

- I. The Judge -- Chapter 1:1-7.
- II. The Verdict -- Chapter 1:8-14.
- III. The Execution -- Chapters 2, 3.

B. Supplemental outline:

- I. The God of Vengeance (1:1-8).
 - A. The Prophet and his Theme (1:1).
 - B. God's wrath against sin (1:2-6).
 - C. God's mercy to the faithful (1:7).
 - D. God's pursuit of his enemies (1:8).
- II. Nineveh's Distress (1:9-2:13).
 - A. Her overthrow to be complete (1:9-15).
 - B. A prophetic vision of the coming siege (2:1-7).
 - 1. Preparation for battle (2:1-4).
 - 2. The futility of it all (2:5-7).
 - C. The plundering of the city (2:8-13).
 - 1. The confused flight of the people (2:8-10).
 - 2. The completeness of destruction (2:11-13).
- III. Reasons For Nineveh's Doom (3:1-19).
 - A. Her sins (3:1-7).
 - 1. Description of the battle (3:1-3).
 - 2. The cause of doom specified (3:4).
 - 3. Her shame uncovered by God (3:5-7).

- B. The impossibility of her survival (3:8-19).
 - 1. Nineveh to share the fate of Thebes (3:8-11).
 - 2. Her resources will not avail to save her (3:12-19).

IV. THE THEME AND MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF NAHUM.

- A. The theme of the book is: **The Doom of Nineveh.**
- B. The message of the book is: **Sin is a reproach to any people.**
- C. Here are some other teachings of the book:
 - 1. About God (1:2-3, 7):
 - a. The Judge--Jealous, vengeful, furious, wrathful, great in power, will not acquit wicked, and indignant.
 - b. The Father--slow to anger, good, a stronghold in day of trouble, knowing them that trust Him.
 - 2. About the wicked nations:
 - a. Condemned to utter destruction (1:8-9).
 - b. Name will be blotted out (1:10).
 - c. God to dig its grave (1:14).
 - d. Great wealth and power cannot save it (3:8-19).

V. SPECIAL NOTE ON NINEVEH.

- A. Nineveh was the greatest city of its day, but God destroyed it so thoroughly that:
 - 1. Alexander the Great searched for it, camped on top of it, camped right beside it, but never found it.
 - 2. Only in 1845 did the "archaeological shovel" dig it up.
- B. God buried Nineveh so well it took man over 2,400 years to find it.

VI. PRACTICAL LESSONS OF PERMANENT VALUE.

- A. God is good, His is not "goody goody."
- B. There is a limit to God's patience. Compare Jonah and Nahum.
- C. God still rules the world.
- D. A nation built on pride, cruelty, force, and selfishness cannot hope to have friends in the day of its fall.
- E. God hates brutality, violence, and wrong.
- F. When God lifts His finger in judgment, the mightiest of nations must fall.

VII. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

- A. Give an example of good jealousy and an example of bad jealousy.
- B. How do you feel when you read that God is jealous? Why?
- C. How can God be jealous but not envious? What is the difference?
- D. What are danger signs of human anger?
- E. How can God's anger always be right when ours is so often wrong?
- F. How can our anger be transformed to be more like God's? What is our part in the process?
- G. How do you understand God's pity and compassion alongside his jealousy, anger and wrath?
- H. As you observe your neighbors or relatives, would you say they deserve God's judgment? Why or why not? How does God see them?
- I. What are the three reasons given in Nahum 3 why Nineveh deserves to be judged?
- J. Warren Wiersbe has written "people become like the god that they worship (Psa. 115:8), for what we believe determines how we behave." If you look at the behavior of non-Christians around you, what would you say they worship? What about the behavior of people who attend your church? What about you?