

Book of Nahum – Background & Chapter 1

1. Background: Nahum was from the town of Alqosh in northern Iraq.
2. The prophet Nahum followed the prophet Jonah in the line of succession of minor prophets.
 - a. Jonah prophesied around 760 BC.
 - b. Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Judah in 722 BC.
 - c. Assyria tried to conquer the Southern Kingdom of Israel in 701 BC.
 - d. God rose up Nahum to prophesy against Nineveh in 640 BC.
 - e. Assyria was destroyed by Babylon in 612 BC.
3. The central message of the book of Nahum is that God declares vengeance on His enemies.
4. In verses 1-8, the theme is God speaks of Himself.
 - a. 9 times, God speaks of His power and might.
 - b. In verse 8, God declares that the city of Nineveh is the one whom His judgement is against.
5. In verses 9-11;14, the theme is God is speaking directly to Nineveh.
 - a. In verse 9, God is declaring that Nineveh will not have a second chance.
 - b. In verse 14, God declares 3 things against the king of Assyria:
 - i. His dynasty will end.
 - ii. The help of his gods will end.
 - iii. His life will end.
6. In verses 12-13;15, the theme is God is speaking to His people in Judah.
 - a. In verse 12, God tells His people that they will be destroyed.
 - b. God says I will never use Assyria to chasten you again.
 - c. In verse 15, God tells His people to look to the mountains to the one who will carry the good news that Nineveh has fallen.
7. Some take-aways:
 - a. God will not tolerate disobedience.
 - b. God will chasten His people.
 - c. Nations or people who appear to flaunt their disobedience toward God, will one day reap what they sow.
 - d. God is a good God who care for His people who trust in Him.
 - e. God's judgement does not contradict His goodness.