

## Outline of Nahum

The book of Nahum is addressed to Nineveh and also to the entire Assyrian empire of which Nineveh was the capital city. Recall that Jonah was another prophet who was told to bring a message to Nineveh. Jonah was written in the early half of the 8th century B.C. (recall that we said this was sometime between 793-752 B.C.). Nahum writes about 100 years later that judgment that is imminent for Nineveh. Apparently their repentance under Jonah's ministry did not last more than a portion of the intervening century.

The date of Nahum can be located between 663 B.C. and 612 B.C. The former date marks the fall of Thebes in Egypt to the Assyrians (3:8) and this is used as an example by Nahum. Further, the fall of Nineveh to the Babylonians occurred in 612. This could put Nahum's writing during the reigns of Manasseh (most likely), Amon, or Josiah. I think the book was written earlier in that time period due to the strength of Assyria, which was in the process of being eclipsed in the 7th century by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, i.e. later in the century we find a weaker and weaker Assyrian power.

Nahum's name means comfort or consolation. The message is of no comfort to Nineveh, obviously, but is of comfort to Judah, whose enemies will be punished thoroughly.

I. Introduction .....	1:1
II. God the Judge and the Conspiracy Against Him .....	1:2-15
A. His Holy Character.....	1:2-3a
B. His Great Power .....	1:3b-6
C. His Justice .....	1:7-8
D. Judgment against Nineveh .....	1:9-12a, 14
E. Deliverance for Judah.....	1:12b-13, 15
III. The Promised Destruction of Nineveh .....	2:1-13
A. The Call to be Ready for Judgment.....	2:1-2
B. The Picture of the Battle.....	2:3-6
C. The Captivity and Spoil of Nineveh.....	2:7-10
D. The Figure of the Destruction of the Young Lions .....	2:11-13
IV. Further Detail of the Destruction of Nineveh.....	3:1-19
A. Reason for Judgment .....	3:1, 4
B. Carnage in Nineveh.....	3:2-3
C. Humiliation of Nineveh.....	3:5-7
D. Example of Thebes.....	3:8-11
1. Fortifications will not help .....	3:8-10
2. Comparison of Nineveh to Thebes.....	3:11
E. Mockery of Nineveh.....	3:12-18
1. Mockery of the weakness of her defenses.....	3:12-13
2. Mocking call to strengthen her defenses .....	3:14-15
3. Mockery of her chief officials .....	3:16-18
F. Irreversible Destruction.....	3:19

## Notes

- Note that the “chief officials” of Nineveh, as I have called them, are the merchants, commanders, generals, shepherds, and nobles.
- Note the phrase “I am against you.” It occurs in 2:13 and 3:5.
- The figure “young lions” represents Assyria. They were powerful like lions; now they will be consumed as by lions.
- Notice the attributes of God, particularly those mentioned in chapter 1.