

Analysis of

NAHUM

"THE JUDGMENT OF NINEVEH"

“A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. {3} The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished.”
Nahum 1:2-3a

Analysis of NAHUM
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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NAHUM

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“A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; The LORD is avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies. {3} The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished.”
Nahum 1:2-3a

Author: Nahum, from Elkosh, perhaps in Galilee. Little else known of him.

Date: Between 661 B.C. (downfall of Thebes, 3:8) and 612 B.C. (downfall of Nineveh).

A 1 THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH PROMISED 1

B 1 Introduction: Nahum’s oracle against Nineveh 1:1

B 2 Yahweh's Sovereign Holiness Demands Judgment 1:2-8

C 1 The vengeance of Yahweh 1:2

C 2 The forbearance of Yahweh 1:3a

C 3 The effects of Yahweh’s wrath 1:3b-5

D 1 Whirlwinds and storm 1:3b

D 2 Drought 1:4

D 3 Massive earthquakes 1:5

C 4 The characterization of Yahweh’s wrath 1:6

D 1 Like fire poured out

D 2 Like pulverized rocks

C 5 The goodness of Yahweh toward those who take refuge in Him 1:7

C 6 His relentless pursuit of His enemies 1:8

B 3 The Promise of Destruction for Nineveh and Deliverance for Judah 1:9-15

C 1 The futility of Nineveh’s opposition to Yahweh 1:9-11

D 1 Yahweh will utterly terminate Nineveh’s plot against Him 1:9

D 2 The description of those whom Yahweh will consume 1:10

D 3 Nineveh’s sin – she is the source of a wicked counselor who has plotted evil against Him 1:11

- C 2 Yahweh's promise of support for Judah 1:12-13
 - D 1 Though the people of Nineveh are strong and numerous, they will be cut off 1:12a
 - D 2 Yahweh will cease His affliction of Judah 1:12b
 - D 3 Yahweh will liberate Judah from the shackles of Nineveh 1:13
- C 3 Yahweh's command of destruction against Nineveh 1:14
 - D 1 The guarantee of fulfillment – the command of Yahweh
 - D 2 The dissolution of Nineveh's name
 - D 3 Yahweh will cut off Nineveh's idolatrous worship
 - D 4 Yahweh will prepare Nineveh's grave because she is contemptible
- C 4 Good news for Judah! 1:15
 - D 1 The beautiful feet of the bearer of the good news of peace
 - D 2 Judah urged to celebrate her feasts and fulfill her vows
 - D 3 The reason – the demise of Nineveh, her tormentor

A 2 THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH DETAILED 2

B 1 The Call to Arms 2:1-2

- C 1 The warning to Nineveh to stand guard against an invader ¹ 2:1
- C 2 Yahweh's resolve to restore the prestige of Israel even though devastators have pillaged her 2:2

B 2 The Battle 2:3-8

- C 1 The crimson colors of the invaders 2:3a
- C 2 The flashing steel of the invaders' chariots 2:3b
- C 3 The cypress spears of the invaders' infantry 2:3c
- C 4 The rapidity of the invaders' chariots 2:4a
- C 5 The appearance of the invaders' chariots 2:4b
 - D 1 Like torches
 - D 2 Like flashes of lightning

¹ Nahum 2:1 title - invader: The invading soldiers are most likely from Media. So [Thomas Constable](#).

C 6 The bungling attempt of the Assyrians to defend Nineveh's walls 2:5

C 7 The flooding of Nineveh 2:6

C 8 The moaning of Nineveh's female slaves and concubines 2:7

B 3 The Sack 2:8-10

C 1 The panicky flight of fugitives from Nineveh 2:8

C 2 The invading Median troops ² gleefully plunder the city 2:9

C 3 The desolation of the city 2:10a

C 4 The terror of its residents 2:10b

B 4 The Metaphor of Nineveh's Defeat 2:11-12

C 1 Nineveh had been like a den filled with lions undisturbed by any invader 2:11

C 2 But now the den was empty 2:11

C 3 Formerly the den had been filled with enough flesh for all the lions, but now it is empty 2:12

B 5 The Reason for Nineveh's Defeat – the Opposition of Yahweh of Troops 2:13

C 1 [Yahweh of Troops](#) is against Nineveh

C 2 He will burn her chariots

C 3 The sword will devour her lion-like warriors

C 4 Nineveh will be unable to subjugate surrounding nations

C 5 Nineveh's messengers will be silenced

A 3 THE DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH DESERVED 3

B 1 Nineveh's Payback 3:1-4

C 1 Woe upon the city 3:1

D 1 Characterized by the slaughter of others

D 2 Full of lies

D 3 Given to pillaging others

D 4 Ever seeking new prey

² Nahum 2:9 title - Median troops: So [Constable](#).

- C 2 The sounds of the battle against Nineveh 3:2a
 - D 1 The noise of the whip
 - D 2 The rattling wheel
- C 3 The sights of the battle against Nineveh 3:2b-3
 - D 1 Galloping horses 3:2b
 - D 2 Lurching chariots
 - D 3 Charging cavalry 3:3a
 - D 4 Relentless infantry 3:3b
 - D 5 Streets filled with corpses 3:3c
- C 4 The reason for Nineveh's defeat – she has been a prostitute 3:4
 - D 1 Her many harlotries ³
 - D 2 Practitioner of sorceries
 - D 3 Seller of nations
 - D 4 Seller of families

B 2 Yahweh's Contempt for Nineveh 3:5-7

- C 1 The opposition of [Yahweh of Troops](#) 3:5a
- C 2 He will expose the naked prostitute and disgrace her before the nations 3:5b
- C 3 He will throw filth on her, making her a spectacle 3:6
- C 4 All who see Nineveh will be appalled at her desolation and ruin 3:7

³ Nahum 3:4 - harlotries: According to [Constable](#), this is a metaphorical reference. Assyria would offer help to other nations only to come later and conquer them.

B 3 Nineveh's Comparison to No-Amon (Thebes) 3:8-13

- C 1 The question asked – is Nineveh better than No-Amon? ⁴ 3:8a
- C 2 The strategically desirable situation of No-Amon 3:8b-9
 - D 1 Surrounded by the waters of the Nile 3:8b
 - D 2 Allied with Ethiopia 3:9a
 - D 3 Supported by Put and Lubim 3:9b
- C 3 The demise of No-Amon 3:10
 - D 1 Exiled into captivity
 - D 2 Small children killed
 - D 3 Important leaders bound in chains and sold as slaves
- C 4 Nineveh will suffer the same fate as No-Amon 3:11-13
 - D 1 Resorting to liquor to dull the emotional pain 3:11a
 - D 2 Hiding to avoid detection 3:11b
 - D 3 Searching for a refuge from the invaders 3:11c
 - D 4 Your fortifications for defense will be useless 3:12
 - D 5 Your population will be as helpless as women 3:13a
 - D 6 The gates of your land will be useless 3:13b
 - E 1 Wide open to the enemy
 - E 2 Set on fire

B 4 Another View of Nineveh's Judgment 3:14-19

- C 1 The cynical warning for Nineveh to prepare its defenses 3:14
- C 2 Nineveh's preparations would be useless 3:15
 - D 1 She would be consumed by fire
 - D 2 She would be cut down by the sword
 - D 3 She would be consumed as if by a locust plague

⁴ Nahum 3:8 - No-amon: No-amon means “city of the god Amon.” Its Greek name was Thebes. It was the capital of upper Egypt 400 miles south of Cairo. Waters of the Nile surrounded the city. But just as the Nile had been no help to the Egyptians, the waters of the Tigris would not deliver Nineveh. (See [Constable](#).)

- C 3 Nineveh sarcastically urged to multiply her numbers 3:15b-16a
 - D 1 Like the creeping and swarming locust 3:15b
 - D 2 Like the stars of heaven 3:16a
- C 4 Nineveh's preparations for defense would be fruitless 3:16b-19
 - D 1 Their guardsmen would be as flighty as a locust 3:16b-17a
 - D 2 Their marshals would flee like grasshoppers 3:17b
 - D 3 Her leaders would be as ineffective as if they were sleeping 3:18a
 - D 4 Her populace would be scattered on the mountains with none to regroup them 3:18b
 - D 5 Nineveh's wound will be incurable 3:19a
 - D 6 Nineveh's formerly subjugated peoples will clap gleefully at her demise 3:19b
 - D 7 Which peoples have not known the evil and cruel rule of Nineveh? 3:19c

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