

Ho-hum or Nahum

Chapter 9

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 82



Objective: To understand the holiness and love of God in the message of Nahum.



The LORD is good. When trouble comes, he is a strong refuge. And he knows everyone who trusts in him. But he sweeps away his enemies in an overwhelming flood. He pursues his foes into the darkness of night.

—Nahum 1:7-8

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

—Romans 6:23

The Assyrians conquered and enslaved all the nations of the world with indescribable cruelty. As they became a great world empire, the entire world feared their brutality. The capital of the Assyrian Empire was the city of Nineveh. Although this city had repented at the preaching of Jonah, the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel only 60 years later. Another 60 years after that invasion, Assyria threatened the Southern Kingdom of Judah. It was then that the prophet Nahum spoke words of comfort to Judah: Nineveh the capital city of their enemy would soon be destroyed. Because of His holy and righteous character, God would deal with the Assyrians harshly and punish them for their cruel sins.



1. True or false? Like Jonah, Nahum also preached a message about Nineveh.

2. True or false? Nineveh's repentance at the time of Jonah lasted for centuries.
3. True or false? Nineveh was the dominant city in the world at the time of Nahum.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Match the three chapters of Nahum with their corresponding themes:
 - a. Chapter 1
 - b. Chapter 2
 - c. Chapter 3
 - i. The doom of Nineveh defended
 - ii. The doom of Nineveh declared
 - iii. The doom of Nineveh described
5. How long after Nahum's prophecy did Nineveh fall?
 - a. 2 weeks
 - b. 3½ years
 - c. 23 years
 - d. 120 years
6. When did Nahum live?
 - a. Soon after the prophet Elijah
 - b. Before the Babylonian captivity, about the time of Isaiah
 - c. Around the time of Jesus
 - d. We don't know any details of his life.
7. The prophetic books are sometimes summed up as "the fall of four cities." Which cities were they? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Rome
 - b. Jerusalem
 - c. Damascus
 - d. Susa
 - e. Athens
 - f. Nineveh
 - g. Babylon
 - h. Gath
 - i. Samaria
8. What was Nahum's message to the people of Judah?
 - a. They would no longer have to worry about Nineveh invading them.
 - b. They would be destroyed along with Nineveh.
 - c. They would be delivered only after Nineveh had held them in captivity for 70 years.
 - d. They would be taken captive and dispersed by Nineveh like the Northern Kingdom.
9. Why did God pour out His wrath on Nineveh?
 - a. They had become unrepentant and committed very cruel atrocities.
 - b. They were growing too powerful for Him to handle.
 - c. They were not as important as other people.
 - d. He wanted to show off His power.

10. What does Nahum say about the character of God?
- a. God is only loving and never gets angry.
 - b. God is only angry and never expresses love.
 - c. God is both loving and holy, and He is angered by sin.
 - d. God is not concerned with human affairs.

11. Why is the book of Nahum an important message for us today?
- a. It shows us that God loves only certain people.
 - b. It warns us to pray that our enemies be utterly destroyed.
 - c. It prophesies that Nineveh will be rebuilt in our time to war against God's people.
 - d. It is a study of how the love of God is expressed through His wrath and that helps us understand why He hates sin.



Why does God hate sin? How does His anger at sin demonstrate that He loves us? Is there a friend or family member that hasn't accepted God's gift of eternal life? How can you share God's love with them?



Thank God that He loves you too much to ignore sin in your life. Ask Him to make you strong against temptation, and ask that He would put His emotions in your heart. Ask God to help you share His message of love with all those who need it.



Going Deeper

1. In what ways were the prophecies of Nahum about the destruction of Nineveh good news to the people of God? _____

2. When you compare the book of Nahum to the book of Jonah, what conclusions must you make about the supernatural salvation of Nineveh through the prophet Jonah? _____

3. What is the devotional and practical application of the book of Nahum to our lives today?

4. In what ways does Nahum defend the destruction of Nineveh? _____

5. When you carefully consider the horrible cruelty of the Assyrians, does this book mean that God will only tolerate an evil and wicked empire to a certain point and then He will wipe it out?

6. How did the conquest of Nineveh, 23 years after this prophecy was proclaimed, validate Nahum as a prophet? _____

7. What obstacle blocking the work of God was addressed by the prophet Nahum? _____
