

**This book contains the account
of Nahum foretelling about
Nineveh and the Assyrian people
being destroyed. We call this
book
Nahum**

¹ *I am Nahum, from Elkosh village. This is a message about Nineveh city, the capital of Assyria that was given to me in a vision by Yahweh.*

Yahweh is angry with the people of Nineveh

² Yahweh our God ◀is jealous/does not want people to worship any other god▶.

He is very angry *with those who worship other gods,*

and he gets revenge [DOU] *on all* those who oppose him [DOU].

³ Yahweh does not quickly become angry; but he is very powerful,

and he will certainly punish [LIT] those who have done evil things [MTY].

He shows his power by sending whirlwinds and storms,

and clouds are *like* [MET] the dust *stirred up* by his feet.

⁴ When he commands oceans and rivers to become dry, they dry up.

He causes the grass in the fields in the Bashan region and on the slopes of Carmel Mountain to wither,

and causes the flowers in Lebanon to fade.

⁵ When he appears, *it is as though* the mountains shake and the hills melt;
the earth quakes and *the people on* the earth tremble.

⁶ There is no one [RHQ] who can resist him when he becomes extremely angry;
there is no one [RHQ] who can survive when his anger is very hot.

When he is very angry, *it is as though* his anger is like [SIM] a blazing fire,
and *it is as though* mountains are shattered into pieces.

⁷ But he is good;
he protects *us his people* when we experience troubles.

He takes care of those who trust in him.

⁸ But he will get rid of his enemies;
he will be to them *like* [MET] a flood that destroys everything.

He will chase his enemies
into the darkness of *the place where the dead are*.

⁹ So, it is useless [RHQ] for you *people of Nineveh* to plot against Yahweh.

He will not *need to* strike you two times to destroy you;

he will destroy you *by striking you only once*.

- 10 *It will be as though his enemies* are tangled in thorns,
and they will stagger like people who have drunk a lot of wine.
They will be burned up like [SIM] a fire completely burns up stubble/straw.
- 11 In Nineveh *city* there was a man who advised people to do very wicked things to Yahweh.
- 12 But this is what Yahweh says *about you Israeli people*:
“Although the people of Assyria have very many people and their army is very powerful, they will be destroyed and will disappear.
I say to my people in Judah,
‘ have *already* punished you,
but I will not punish you again.
- 13 Now I will cause the *people of Assyria* to no longer control/oppress you [MET];
it will be as though I will tear off the shackles/chains on your *hands and feet.*”
- 14 *And this is what* Yahweh also declares about you people of Nineveh:
“You will not have any descendants who will continue to have your family names.
And I will destroy all the statues of your gods that were carved or formed in molds.
I will cause you *to be killed and* sent to your graves,
because you are vile/despicable!”

¹⁵ *You people of Judah*, look! A messenger will be coming across the mountains, and he [SYN] will be bringing good news to you.

He will be declaring *that you will now have peace because Assyria will have been conquered.*

So, celebrate your festivals, and do what you solemnly promised to do *when your enemies were threatening to attack you,*

because your wicked *enemies* will not invade your country again, *because they will be completely destroyed.*

2

Nineveh will be destroyed

¹ *You people of* [APO] Nineveh, your enemies are coming to attack you. So place guards on the tops of the walls around the city!
Guard the roads *into the city!*
Get ready to fight!
Gather your troops/soldiers [MTY] together!

² Even though enemy soldiers have destroyed the descendants of [MTY] Jacob, Yahweh will cause them to be honored again. Israel is like a grapevine that has been ruined, but Israel will prosper again.

3 The shields of the enemy soldiers *who are coming to attack you* will shine red as the sun shines on them,
and they will wear bright red uniforms.

The metal of their chariot *wheels* will flash when they line up *before the battle*,
and their soldiers will lift up their cypress/
pine spears and wave them.

4 Their chariots will dash through the streets of *Nineveh*
and rush furiously through the plazas.

Going as quick as lightning,
they will resemble flaming torches.

5 *Meanwhile*, your king will summon his officers
who will stumble as they *try to come quickly*.
They will dash to the *city wall*,
holding their shields to protect themselves.

6 But, the gates of *the dams* on the rivers will be
thrown open *by enemy soldiers*,
and *the flood will cause* the palace to col-
lapse.

7 The queen will have her clothes stripped off her
by enemy soldiers,
and her slave girls will moan like doves
and beat their breasts *to show that they are very sad*.

8 *The people will rush from Nineveh*
like [SIM] water rushes from a broken dam.
The officials will shout, "Stop! Stop!"
but the people will not even look back *as they run away*.

⁹ *The enemy attackers say to each other, “Seize the silver!
Grab the gold!*

There is a huge amount of very valuable things
in this city,
more valuable things than anyone can
count!”

¹⁰ *Soon everything valuable in the city will be
seized or ruined.
People will be trembling, with the result that
they will not be able to fight.
Their faces will all become pale.*

¹¹ *After that happens, people will say,
“What happened to [RHQ] that great city of
Nineveh?
It was like [MET] a den full of young lions,
where the male and female lions lived and fed
the young ones.*

¹² *The soldiers in Nineveh were like [MET] lions
that killed or strangled other animals
and brought the meat to their dens.”*

¹³ The Commander of the armies of angels says
to the people of Nineveh,

“I am opposed to you;
I will cause your chariots to *be burned in fires
and go up in smoke.*

Your young men will be killed with swords.
*Your soldiers will never again conquer other
nations
and seize their valuable possessions.*

Your messengers will never again take messages
*to other nations, demanding that their
 armies surrender to them.*"

3

Nineveh will be punished

- ¹ Terrible things will happen to *Nineveh*,
 that city *that is full of people who murder*
 [MTY] and lie.
*The city is full of things that were seized from
 other countries by their soldiers;
 their armies continually [LIT] have acted
 brutally towards people whom they con-
 quered.*
- ² But *now listen to the enemy soldiers coming to
 attack Nineveh;*
listen to them cracking their whips,
and listen to the rattle of their chariot wheels!
Listen to their galloping horses
and their chariots as they bounce along!
- ³ *Look at their flashing swords and glittering
 spears*
as the horsemen race forward!
Many people of Nineveh will be killed;
there will be piles of corpses,
*with the result that people will stumble over
 them.*
- ⁴ *All that will happen because Nineveh is like*
 [MET] *a beautiful prostitute*
who lures men to where they will be ruined;
Nineveh is a beautiful city
*which has attracted/enticed people of other
 nations to come there.*

The people of Nineveh taught those people of other nations rituals of magic, and caused them to become their slaves.

⁵ So the Commander of the armies of angels says to the people of Nineveh:

“I am your enemy,

and I will cause the people in other nations to see you completely humiliated

like [MET] women who have committed adultery are humiliated by having their skirts lifted high,

with the result that people can see their naked bodies.

⁶ I will cause rubbish/garbage to be thrown at you;

I will show others that I despise you very much,

and I will cause you to be publicly ridiculed.

⁷ All those who see you will turn their backs to you and say,

‘Nineveh is ruined,

but absolutely no one [RHQ] will mourn for it.’

No one will regret Nineveh being destroyed!”

The people of Nineveh will not be able to defend themselves

⁸ Your city is certainly [RHQ] no safer than Thebes city was.

Thebes was an important city beside the Nile River;

the river was like [SIM] a wall that protected the city [DOU].

⁹ *The rulers of Ethiopia and Egypt helped Thebes; there was no limit to their power.*

The governments of the nearby countries of Put and Libya were also allies of Thebes.

¹⁰ But Thebes was captured,
and *its people were* ◀exiled/forced to go to other countries▶.

Their babies were dashed to pieces in the streets
of the city.

Enemy soldiers ◀cast lots/threw small marked stones▶ to decide who would get each official in Thebes *to become his slave.*

All the leaders of Thebes were fastened/tied by chains.

¹¹ You *people of Nineveh* will similarly become dazed and drunk,
and you will search for places to hide
to escape from your enemies.

¹² *Your enemies will cause* the walls around your city to fall down
like [SIM] the first figs that fall from fig trees
each year.

Your city will be captured easily, like [MET] *figs that fall* into the mouths [HYP] of those who shake the fig trees.

¹³ Look at your soldiers!
They will be *as weak/helpless as* [MET] women!

The gates of your city will be opened wide
to allow your enemies to enter them,
and then the bars of those gates will be burned.

- 14 Store up water *now to use when your enemies surround the city!*
Repair the forts!
Dig up clay and trample it *to make it soft,*
and put it into molds to make bricks *to repair the walls!*
- 15 *Nevertheless, your enemies will burn your city;*
they will kill you with their swords;
they will kill you like [SIM] locusts *destroy crops.*
- 16 In your *city* there are now very many merchants;
it seems that there are more of them than there are stars.
But *when your city is being destroyed, those merchants will take the valuable things and disappear*
like [SIM] locusts that strip the leaves from plants and *then* fly away.
- 17 Your leaders are *also* like a swarm of [SIM] locusts [DOU]
that crowd together on the stone fences/walls on a cold day,
and *then* fly away when the sun comes up,
and no one knows where they have gone.
- 18 O King of Assyria, your officials will *all* be dead [EUP];
your important people will lie down and rest *forever.*
Your people will be scattered over the mountains,
and there will no one to gather them *together.*

19 You *are like someone who* has a wound that cannot be healed;
it will be a wound that causes him to die.
And all those who hear about what has happened to you will clap their hands *joyfully*.
They will say, “Everyone has [RHQ] suffered because he continually was *very* cruel to us.”

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