

# Nahum

<sup>1</sup> This book is the vision of Nahum from Elkosh. This is the sad message about the city of Nineveh.\*

## *The Lord Is Angry at Nineveh*

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is a jealous God.

The LORD punishes the guilty,  
and he is very angry.

The LORD punishes his enemies,  
and he stays angry with them.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is patient,

but he is also very powerful!

The LORD will punish the guilty;  
he will not let them go free.

He will use whirlwinds and storms to show his  
power.

People walk on the dusty ground, but he  
walks on the clouds.

<sup>4</sup> He will speak harshly to the sea, and it will  
become dry.

He will dry up all the rivers.

The rich lands of Bashan and Carmel become dry  
and dead.

The flowers in Lebanon fade away.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord will come,

and the mountains will shake  
and the hills will melt away.

He will come,

---

\* **1:1 *Nineveh*** The capital city of the country of Assyria. Assyria destroyed Israel in 722-721 B.C.

- and the earth will shake with fear.  
The earth and everyone on it  
will shake with fear.
- 6 No one can stand against his great anger.  
No one can endure his terrible anger.  
His anger will burn like fire.  
The rocks will shatter when he comes.
- 7 The LORD is good.  
He is a safe place to go to in times of trouble.  
He takes care of those who trust him.
- 8 But he will completely destroy his enemies.  
He will wash them away like a flood  
and chase them into the darkness.
- 9 Why are you making plans against the LORD?  
He will bring complete destruction,  
so you will not cause trouble again.
- 10 You will be destroyed completely  
like thornbushes burning under a pot.  
You will be destroyed  
like dry weeds that burn quickly.
- 11 Someone from Nineveh is making evil plans  
against the LORD.  
That advisor is a worthless troublemaker.
- 12 This is what the LORD said:  
"The people of Assyria are at full strength.  
They have many soldiers, but they will all be  
cut down.  
They will all be finished.  
My people, I made you suffer,  
but I will make you suffer no more.
- 13 Now I will set you free from the power of  
Assyria.  
I will take the yoke off your neck

and tear away the chains holding you.”

<sup>14</sup> King of Assyria, the LORD gave this command about you:

“You will not have any descendants to wear your name.

I will destroy your carved idols  
and metal statues that are in the temple of  
your gods.

I am preparing your grave,  
because your end is coming soon!<sup>†</sup>”

<sup>15</sup> Judah, look!

There, coming over the mountains, is a  
messenger bringing good news!

He says there is peace.

Judah, celebrate your special festivals  
and do what you promised.

Those worthless troublemakers will not come  
through and attack you again.

They have all been destroyed.

## 2

### *Nineveh Will Be Destroyed*

<sup>1</sup> An enemy is coming to attack you,  
so guard the strong places of your city.

Watch the road.

Get ready for war.

Prepare for battle!

<sup>2</sup> Yes, the LORD changed Jacob’s pride.

<sup>†</sup> **1:14** *because your end is coming soon* Or “you are not important” or “you are so hated.”

He made it like Israel's pride.  
The enemy destroyed them  
and ruined their grapevines.

<sup>3</sup> The shields of his soldiers are red.  
Their uniforms are bright red.  
Their chariots are shining like flames of fire  
and are lined up for battle.  
Their horses are ready to go.

<sup>4</sup> The chariots race wildly through the streets  
and rush back and forth through the square.  
They look like burning torches,  
like lightning flashing from place to place!

<sup>5</sup> The enemy calls for his best soldiers.  
They stumble as they rush ahead.  
They run to the wall  
and set up their shield over the battering  
ram.

<sup>6</sup> But the gates by the rivers are open,  
and the enemy comes flooding in and de-  
stroys the king's palace.

<sup>7</sup> The enemy takes away the queen,  
and her slave girls moan sadly like doves.  
They beat their breasts to show their sad-  
ness.

<sup>8</sup> Nineveh is like a pool whose water  
is draining away.  
People yell, "Stop! Stop running away!"  
But it does not do any good.

<sup>9</sup> Take the silver!  
Take the gold!

There are many things to take.

There are many treasures.

<sup>10</sup> Now Nineveh is empty.

Everything is stolen.

The city is ruined.

People have lost their courage,  
their hearts melt with fear,  
their knees knock together,  
their bodies shake,  
and their faces turn pale.

<sup>11</sup> Where is that great city now?

It was like a den where the lions feed their  
young.

It was a place where people felt safe,  
like lions in a cave with no one there to harm  
them.

<sup>12</sup> The lion was able to catch plenty of food  
to feed his cubs and his mate.

He filled his cave with the animals he killed.  
He filled his den with the meat he gathered.

<sup>13</sup> The LORD All-Powerful says,

“I am against you, Nineveh.

I will burn your chariots

and kill your ‘young lions’ in battle.

You will not hunt anyone on earth again.

People will never again hear bad news  
from your messengers.”

### 3

#### *Bad News for Nineveh*

- <sup>1</sup> It will be very bad for that city of murderers.  
Nineveh is a city full of lies.  
It is filled with things taken from other countries.  
It is filled with plenty of people that it hunted  
and killed.
- <sup>2</sup> You can hear the sounds of whips  
and the noise of wheels.  
You can hear horses galloping  
and chariots bouncing along!
- <sup>3</sup> Soldiers on horses are attacking,  
their swords are shining,  
their spears are gleaming!  
There are many dead people.  
Dead bodies are piled up—too many bodies  
to count.  
People are tripping over the dead bodies.
- <sup>4</sup> All this happened because of Nineveh.  
Nineveh is like a prostitute who could never  
get enough.  
She wanted more and more.  
She sold herself to many nations,  
and she used her magic to make them her  
slaves.
- <sup>5</sup> The LORD All-Powerful says,  
“I am against you, Nineveh.  
I will pull your dress\* up over your face.  
I will let the nations see your naked body.  
The kingdoms will see your shame.
- <sup>6</sup> I will throw dirty things on you

---

\* **3:5 pull your dress** This is a wordplay in Hebrew. The Hebrew word also means “to destroy a country and take its people away as prisoners to other nations.”

and treat you in a hateful way.  
People will look at you and laugh.  
7 Everyone who sees you will be shocked.  
They will say, 'Nineveh is destroyed.  
Who will cry for her?'  
I know I cannot find anyone to comfort you,  
Nineveh."

8 Nineveh, are you better than Thebes<sup>†</sup> on the Nile River? Thebes also had water all around her to protect herself from enemies. She used that water like a wall too. 9 Ethiopia and Egypt made Thebes strong. Libya and the Sudan supported her, 10 but Thebes was defeated. Her people were taken away as prisoners to a foreign country. Soldiers beat her small children to death at every street corner. They threw lots to see who got to keep the important people as slaves. They put chains on all the important men of Thebes.

11 So, Nineveh, you will also fall like a drunk. You will try to hide. You will look for a safe place away from the enemy. 12 But Nineveh, all your strong places will be like fig trees. When new figs become ripe, people come and shake the tree. The figs fall into their mouths. They eat them, and the figs are gone.

13 Nineveh, your people are all like women—and the enemy soldiers are ready to take them. The gates of your land are open wide for your enemies to come in. Fire has destroyed the wooden bars across the gates.

---

† **3:8 Thebes** A great city in Egypt. It was destroyed in 663 B.C. by the Assyrian army.

<sup>14</sup> Get water and store it inside your city, because the enemy soldiers will surround your city. Make your defenses strong! Get clay to make more bricks and mix the mortar. Get the molds for making bricks. <sup>15</sup> You can do all these things, but the fire will still destroy you completely. And the sword will kill you. Your land will look like a swarm of grasshoppers came and ate everything.

Nineveh, you grew and grew. You became like a swarm of grasshoppers. You were like a swarm of locusts. <sup>16</sup> You have many traders who go places and buy things. They are as many as the stars in the sky. They are like locusts that come and eat until everything is gone and then leave. <sup>17</sup> And your government officials are also like locusts that settle on a stone wall on a cold day. But when the sun comes up, the rocks become warm, and the locusts all fly away. And no one knows where.

<sup>18</sup> King of Assyria, your shepherds fell asleep. These powerful men are sleeping. And now your sheep have wandered away on the mountains. There is no one to bring them back. <sup>19</sup> Nineveh, you have been hurt badly, and nothing can heal your wound. Everyone who hears the news of your destruction claps their hands. They are all happy, because they all felt the pain you caused again and again.

## **Easy-to-Read Version** **The Holy Bible, Easy-to-Read Version**

copyright © 1987, 1999, 2006 Bible League International

Language: English

Dialect: American

Translation by: World Bible Translation Center

© Copyright 1987, 1999, 2006 Bible League International. All rights reserved.

Permissions

This copyrighted material may be quoted up to 1000 verses without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. This copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page:

Holy Bible: Easy-to-Read Version™

Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION™

© 2006 by Bible League International and used by permission.

When quotations from the ERV are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials (ERV) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Requests for permission to use quotations or reprints in excess of 1000 verses or more than 50% of the work in which they are quoted, or other permission requests, must be directed to and approved in writing by Bible League International.

Web: <https://www.bibleleague.org/>

Free Downloads of electronic copies of Bibles and New Testaments translated by the World Bible Translation Center's Bibles and New Testaments are available at [www.bibleleague.org](http://www.bibleleague.org).

2018-08-30

---

PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 23 Dec 2025 from source files dated 31 Aug 2018

7ff7feac-2218-588f-a307-72f6a3544fa8