

Nahum

Summary

In this book, the prophet Nahum brings a harsh message of judgment on the Assyrian people of Nineveh. Unlike Jonah, Nahum did not actually go to Nineveh to give this pronouncement. He spoke to the people of Judah as an encouragement that God would judge the people who ravaged their land. Although God had used the Assyrians to punish both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, God promised that their godless lifestyle would not be left without judgment.

Author

The prophet Nahum of Elkosh, which means "comfort," was the author of the book of Nahum. He was almost certainly from Judah, although the exact location of Elkosh is unknown.

Date

Within the book of Nahum, he refers to the fall of Thebes as a past event, and we know that it occurred around 663 B.C. He refers to the fall of Nineveh as a future event, and this happened about 50 years after the fall of Thebes. With this in mind, the prescribed date should fall between 663-612 B.C.

Primary Characters

Nahum (1-3)

Historical Moments

The Fall of Nineveh (Nahum 1-3)

Major Theological Themes

God Judges Evil - God used Assyria to delegate His punishment of the people of Israel and Judah. He does not stand for those who live lifestyles that are in direct opposition to Him. The entire book of Nahum is a long indictment of the sins of the Assyrians, which they will soon pay for at the hands of the Babylonians. Though it may sometimes seem that justice does not always reign on the earth, God's purposes are bigger than what we could imagine, and evil will not go unpunished.

God Rules the Entire World - In the book of Nahum, it is clear that the God of Israel is not only concerned with the actions of Judah, but with other nations as well. The nation of Assyria was held to God's standards just like the people of Judah. He is the Sovereign God who oversees the entire world, not just individual nations or people.

Lessons Learned from Nahum

Our Suffering Matters to God - In the book of Nahum, we see that God cares that His people are suffering, even though they are far from Him. He judges those who have harmed His people and holds them accountable for their actions. We must remember that it is not our job to punish and judge those who wrong us, but God's alone.

God Desires Perseverance - Despite the consequence and punishment for the people's actions, God asked His people to persevere until the end. Though they certainly could not have seen God's long term plan in the midst of all the turmoil around them, Nahum gave them hope through God's promise that all would be made right in the end. He wrote in Nahum 1:7, *the LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble, he cares for those who trust in him.* God continues to ask us to persevere in prayer and faith through the many tests of this life.