

Nahum (“Comfort”)

Introduction: God had shown mercy to Nineveh (Jonah). But now He brings judgment. He may use the Assyrians to discipline the northern tribes in 722 BC, but now he punishes that very same instrument at the hands of the Babylonians and Medes. Thanks to David Dorsey.

- 1) Yahweh, like a force of nature, avenges His enemies—1:2-10
- 2) Yahweh will destroy Nineveh—1:11-15
- 3) Vivid description of the attack of Nineveh—2:1-10
- 4) **FOCUS: Mocking over the fall of Nineveh, the lions’ den—2:11-13**
 - Lions were the “team mascot” for Assyria. They were considered to be ruthless, powerful, and fast. Nineveh prided itself on its cruelty to those they conquered. King Sennacherib compared himself to a lion. 2:12 uses 4 different Hebrew words for lions, indicating the whole family/pride of lions.
 - For decades the mighty Assyrians had been like a lion among sheep, stalking and eating whomever they desired. (Chisolm)
 - a) **Part 1:** The description of the lions’ lair in the past—2:11-12
 - i) A mocking rhetorical question: Where is/what happened to the lions’ lair?—2:11a
 - (1) The mighty lion of the nations (Assyria) used to proceed at will from its impenetrable lair (Nineveh) to return its prey to its pride (the citizens of Nineveh). Where is all that now? (Patterson)
 - ii) The armies brought their spoils to Nineveh: there the lion brought its prey for its cubs—2:11b
 - iii) The armies were effective at one time—2:12
 - (1) The lion captured and killed prey for his cubs and lionesses—2:12a
 - (2) He filled his den with prey—2:12b
 - b) **Part 2:** Judgment upon the lions’ den—2:13
 - i) God’s **challenge**: “Behold I am against you,”—2:13a
 - (1) God declares Himself to the Enemy of Israel’s fiercest enemies.
 - (2) God will be faithful to His promise to Abraham (Gen. 12:3).
 - ii) God’s **authority**: declares Yahweh Sabaoth—2:13b
 - (1) The title pictures God as the sovereign king who has at his disposal a multitude of attendants, messengers, and warriors to do his bidding. In some contexts, like this one, the military dimension of his rulership is highlighted. In this case, the title pictures him as one who leads armies into battle against his enemies. (NET)
 - iii) God’s **promise**: Your lair and young lions will be destroyed—2:13c
 - iv) God’s **thoroughness**: Your prey and your messengers will be cut off—2:13d

- (1) Nineveh's effectiveness to conquer others will be cut off. Nineveh's emissaries to communicate or to collect tribute will no longer be needed. Cf. 2 Kings 18:13-17
 - (2) Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612 AD.
 - c) Nineveh is no longer the lair of an invincible predator or a den of refuge for its cubs but reduced to ashes. Nineveh will be judged for its selfishness and cruelty. (Patterson)
- 5) Vivid description of the looting of Nineveh—3:1-7
- 6) Nineveh will be destroyed—3:8-13
- 7) Nineveh, like a force of nature, will be destroyed—3:14-19
- 8) Things we need to remember: (think, feel, do)**
- a) God is **free** to use unbelievers to accomplish His purpose for His glory and the good of His people. There should be **awe**.
 - b) God is **right** to use unbelievers to accomplish His purpose for His glory and the good of His people. There should be **submission**.
 - c) God is **righteous** to judge unbelievers for His glory and the good of His people. There should be **hope**.
 - i) The LORD reigns. No nation can long endure that turns its back on the one true God. Israel's and Nineveh's arrogance would both be punished. (Patterson)
 - d) Remember Nahum 1:7-8. Both judgment and salvation come from the same God.