

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 165--Nahum 1-3

Introduction: Nahum was a contemporary of Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and Habbakuk. His prophecy announces the fall of the Assyrian empire with its capital city of Ninevah. The Assyrians, a savage and cruel people, had been a source of great affliction to Israel. However an allied army of Medes, Chaldeans, and others broke the power of Assyrian rule by the destruction of Ninevah (612-608 b.c.).

Lesson aim: To show how God as sovereign of all the nations exercises His vengeance upon the wicked nations of the world.

Nahum declares the destruction of Ninevah-- Nahum 1

1. Make a list of the attributes ascribed to God in v. 1-8. What do these attributes tell us about God?
2. The Assyrians had attempted to devise evil against and plotted against whom? (v. 9-11) Though God had used Assyria to afflict Israel, what did He say He would now do? (v. 12-13)
3. What decree did God make concerning Ninevah (Assyria)? (v. 14) What "good news" did He want announced to His people? (v. 15)

Nahum describes the destruction of Ninevah-- Nahum 2

1. What is being described in v. 1-7?
2. What does Nahum picture the Assyrians as doing? (v. 8-13) The invaders? (v. 8-13)

Nahum explains the destruction of Ninevah-- Nahum 3

1. How does Nahum describe Ninevah? (v. 1) What is the picture of v. 2-3?
2. Why does God say Ninevah's destruction has come? (v. 4) What does God threaten to do to the city for its sin? (v. 5-7)
3. To what other city did Nahum appeal as proof that God would judge the wicked cities of the world like Ninevah? (v. 8-10) What similar thing did God say would happen to Ninevah? (v. 11-15)
4. What does Nahum picture as happening to the traders, guardsmen, and marshals of the city? (v. 16-17)
5. How is the final condition of Assyria described? (v. 18-19) How will the rest of the world feel about her destruction?
6. What would you say is the main lesson taught in this book? Why did Israel need to hear this message?