

Lessons From Characters In Old Testament
Nahum & Jehoahaz
Lesson 50

Nahum: (The Book Of Nehum)

Intro.

- A. Another prophet must be considered who prophesied during this same period of time.
- B. Nahum is the prophet who declares "*Nineveh is fallen!*"
- C. In Nahum's prophesies there are no mention of Judah's need for repentance but, instead, a joyful message to the people of Judah.
 - 1. A joyful message not only because Judah's enemy is falling but an assurance God is just and is avenging the wickedness of Assyria.
- D. The exact time of Nahum is not known but he mentions the destruction of the Egyptian city of No-Amon (**3:8**) which took place after 663 B.C. when the Assyrians destroyed that city.
 - 1. The fall of Nineveh was in 612 B. C., so the book was written somewhere between these two dates probably in the early days of Josiah.
 - 2. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire.
- E. Outline of Nahum:
 - 1. Chapter 1 is a triumphant song over the coming fall of Nineveh.
 - 2. Chapter 2 describes the destruction that is to come.
 - 3. Chapter 3 tells about the guilt of the city.

I. The Doom of Nineveh Is Declared By God (Chapter 1):

- A. In Chapter 1 we see the two-fold nature of God which is expressed in **Rom. 11:22** "*Behold the goodness and the severity of God*".
 - 1. God is jealous and avenging Who never lets His enemies go unpunished.
 - a. However, the Lord is slow to wrath but judgment will surely come.
 - b. His way is in the whirlwind and in the storm and to God the clouds are as the clouds of dust a man stirs up as he walks.
 - c. The sea and land would dry and wither if the Lord so determined.
 - d. The mountains and hills quake before Him.
 - e. **(v. 6)**
 - 2. Yet the Lord is good and a stronghold in the day of trouble to those who trust in Him.
 - a. He will destroy His enemies as in an overwhelming flood.
 - b. The entire history of Assyria was one of rebellion to God therefore they would be cut down.

(NOTE: God had used Assyria to punish Israel for her wickedness and now the time has come for Assyria to be punished and God assures Judah through Nahum it will be done. "He is utterly cut off." (v. 15))

II. The Destruction Of Nineveh Is "Decreed" By God (Chapter 2):

- A. Nineveh is told to man the fort, watch the road, strengthen your flanks, and fortify your power mightily because destruction is coming. **(v. 1)**
- B. **(vs. 7-8)**
- C. Instead, they plunder her silver and gold, the city is plundered, hearts melt, knees shake, and every face grows pale.
- D. The Lord says, "*Behold, I am against you.*" **(v. 13)**

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III. Nineveh's Sins And Her Inevitable Destruction (Chapter 3):

- A. Her punishment was deserved for the Lord was not acting unjustly.
- B. Nineveh was a city full of blood, of lies, of robbery, and victims.
- C. Therefore, the noise of whips, rattling wheels, galloping horses, and clattering of chariots will be heard.
- C. Many will be slain: a great number of bodies, countless corpses so much that they will stumble over them.
- D. All this because of harlotries and sorceries of which she was guilty.
- E. Now God was going to show her nakedness and let all the nations see her shame.
- F. All who look will flee with no one to bemoan or comfort her.
- G. Her destruction would be no worse than she deserved.
- H. The Lord asks, "*Are you better than No-Amon (or Thebes)?*"

(NOTE: 'No-Amon' or Thebes had been the capital city of Egypt from 711 to 663 B.C. It was a powerful city with a large territory. However that powerful city had been destroyed by Ashurbanipal, one of the kings of Assyria. The Lord refers to them to teach Assyria a lesson. If you could destroy that powerful enemy, are you exempt from similar destruction? God answers His own question and tells them they are not immune:[vs. 11-12])

- I. Again, Nineveh is told to prepare for battle, draw water for a siege; strengthen their defenses because the enemy is coming.
- J. The fire will devour you. Gather a large army but, even though there are many, they will flee in the heat of the battle. The merchants, the commanders, and the generals will all flee.
- K. **(v. 19)**
 - 1. There will be none to pity because all nations have been harassed by wicked Assyria.

II. Lessons From Nahum:

A. The Lord Is A Jealous and Avenging God (1:2).

- 1. Nahum teaches God does have enemies.
- 2. He is not a God solely of love and mercy, but He is also a God of justice and anger.
- 3. Many folks today have accepted the notion that God couldn't condemn anyone because He is totally love.
- 4. Nahum shows this is not true: God does have enemies. God can condemn someone. He is a jealous and avenging God.

B. The Lord Doesn't Anger Quickly (1:3).

- 1. The Lord does not just decide to become angry; He only does so when He is provoked.
- 2. God is not a God who wants to be angry, but He does demand justice.
- 3. Nahum described God's anger: **(1:6, ESV)**.

C. The Lord Protects His Remnant (1:7).

- 1. While God executes judgment on wrongdoers, He protects those who do right and fear Him.

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2. God has promised to defend and protect us at the Judgment. (**Matthew 25:21**)

D. The Lord Destroys His Enemies (1:9).

1. God is sovereign. He is above all people. No one can compete with Him.
2. This is a message our world needs to hear. God is sovereign. No one can compete with Him. We have no right to plot against Him and, if we do plot against him, He will destroy us.

E. God Keeps His Promises.

1. He promised to destroy Nineveh (**2:10,13**).
2. God kept His promise in 612 BC when Nebuchadnezzar, with the help of the Medes, took Nineveh.

(NOTE: The destruction was so devastating that Nineveh was not found by archeologists until 1842.)

3. God kept His promise to destroy Nineveh and God keeps His promises today: Those who follow the Scriptures will be saved, Jesus will come again, the dead will be judged, and the righteous will have life eternal in Heaven.

JEHOAHAZ (Shallum) - Reigned 3 Months (Wicked) (2 Kings 23:30-34; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4)

INTRO:

- A. When the people of Judah saw Josiah was dead, they made his son Jehoahaz king.
- B. He was twenty-three years old and did that which was evil in God's sight.

(NOTE: Let us not forget the prophecy of Huldah? She said judgment was definitely coming upon the land of Judah, but that God would wait until Josiah died (**2 Kings 22:18-19**). Now Josiah is dead, a wicked king is on the throne, and all the reforms of Josiah have vanished.)

- C. After a reign of only three months, Jehoahaz was removed from the throne by Pharaoh Necho of Egypt.
- D. Pharaoh had him put in chains and brought to him at Riblah in Hamath and from there exiled him to Egypt.
- E. Then Necho imposed a tribute/tax upon Judah - "*one hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold*" which amounts to about three and three-fourth tons of silver and about seventy-five pounds of gold.
- F. Necho took Eliakim, Jehoahaz's brother, and made him king.
- G. As further proof of his authority over the new king and Judah, he changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim.

I. The Lord's Message For Jeremiah To Deliver To Jehoahaz From The Lord (Jeremiah 22:10-12):

- A. Just as Jeremiah prophesied, Jehoahaz died in Egypt to never return to his homeland.

(NOTE: This is the first time the lineage of David passes from brother to brother, rather than from father to son. Three sons of Josiah followed him to the throne: first Jehoahaz, then Jehoiakim, and finally Zedekiah. Jehoiakim was the oldest (**2 Kings 24:36**); Jehoahaz was next (**2 Kings 23:31**); and Zedekiah was the youngest (**2 Kings 24:18**).

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- B. The promise to David that his throne would be established and his seed would reign forever, was ultimately looking to the coming of Christ.
- C. Therefore, Jesus was a direct descendant of the kings of Judah (**see Matthew 1**).
- D. A good verse to consider is **Matthew 1:17**.

II. Lesson From Jehoahaz:

- A. **Sin is not something forced upon us but, ultimately, something we choose to do.**
 - 1. Jehoahaz, the son of Josiah, had the opportunity to do good; however he chose not to take his father's lead.
 - 2. Though he had an excellent example of righteous Josiah to imitate, Jehoahaz bullheadedly refused and brought on the final downfall of his people.

Lesson 51
Habakkuk
(The Book of Habakkuk)
&
Jehoiakim
(2 Kings 23:36-24:6; 2 Chronicles 36:5-8)