

A close-up photograph of a person wearing medieval-style armor. The armor consists of dark metal plates with overlapping scales on the shoulders and chest. The person's right hand is resting on the hilt of a sword. The background is dark and textured. A white, brush-stroke-like banner is positioned at the bottom of the image, containing the text.

The Scatterer

Minor Prophet - Nahum

Helpful Information

- ❖ **Nahum** (Consolation or Consoler)
- ❖ **Date:** 663 – 612 B.C. / 630 – 612 B.C.
- ❖ **People:** About the fall of Nineveh (capital of the Assyrians) but the message was for Judah.
- ❖ **Background:** Jonah was sent to Nineveh somewhere between 793 – 753 B.C., so a century has passed and Nineveh has fallen away. Assyrians were known to be brutal. Nahum's contemporaries were Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah.



Chapter 1:

- Vs. 1-8:** The Lord is a jealous and avenging God
- ❖ **Vs. 1-2:** God will take vengeance on Nineveh because of their treatment of His children.
 - ❖ **Vs. 3-6:** Their sin will not be cleared. God's power is demonstrated. No one can stand before His anger.
 - ❖ **Vs. 7-8:** God is good. Judah should know all about this. Nineveh will come to an end.



Chapter 1:

Vs. 9-13: They are like entangled thorns & drunkards ...

- ❖ **Vs. 9:** The Assyrians could plot nothing against God. They will not harm Judah again.
- ❖ **Vs. 10-11:** They thought they were impenetrable and had false confidence. They plot against God and fail.
- ❖ **Vs. 12-13:** Though strong, they will be cut down. Again, Judah will be afflicted no more. God will break the yoke of the Assyrians from Judah.

Chapter 1:

Vs. 14-15: Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows

- ❖ **Vs. 14:** The Assyrians name will no longer be perpetuated (planted). They will not last. Their gods will be cut off. God is going to bury them all.
- ❖ **Vs. 15:** Nahum brought good news to Judah. They are to learn something: keep your feasts and vows. They are to understand that the Assyrians will no longer pass through them. Now is the time to repent and serve God! Learn something!



Chapter 2:

Vs. 1-5: The scatter has come up against you.

- ❖ **Vs. 1-2:** The scatter (God) is coming by way of war... so get ready. Yes, they are taunted by God. God will restore His people ruined by the Assyrians.
- ❖ **Vs. 3-5:** The shield of the mighty men (the scatterer's men) is red (probably blood). They will come in with force, intimidation, and speed. The king (Assyrian) remembers his officers, but they panic as they attempt to prepare for battle.



Chapter 2:

Vs. 6-7: The river gates are opened ...

❖ **Vs. 6:** Three possibilities to its meaning:

- God is coming.
- Their enemies controlled the gates and flooded part of the city.
- Diodorus (historian) writes: “Thus the siege lasted a long time, and they pressed their assaults for two whole years ... But in the third year great storms of rain fell without cease, with the result that the Euphrates (sic, should be the Tigris) became swollen, inundated part of the city, and overturned the wall for twenty stades (about 2 miles)”

❖ **Vs. 7:** The “mistress” will be stripped and taken away into captivity while moaning.



Chapter 2:

Vs. 8-13: Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away

- ❖ **Vs. 8-9:** What used to be a great source for many nations will be dried up. No one to stand and defend. Totally cleaned out of all her wealth over the centuries.
- ❖ **Vs. 10-12:** Where is the lion's den where the families can be found along with their prey? Desolation and ruin!
 - “The destruction of Nineveh was so complete that for centuries its original location was unknown. It was not until the turn of the nineteenth century that archaeologists were able with certainty.”
- ❖ **Vs. 13:** God will destroy their instruments of strength and use the very weapon that killed so many against them. No more prey for them. No more messengers of intimidation.



Chapter 3:

Vs. 1-7: Dead bodies without end, they stumble over the bodies!

- ❖ **Vs. 1:** Blood city because of the evil done by her both in and outside of her walls.
- ❖ **Vs. 2-3:** One can only imagine what it would have felt like to see and hear such a great army approach. What a terrifying image!
- ❖ **Vs. 4:** They played the part of the prostitute. They seduced other nations and then brutally attacked.
- ❖ **Vs. 5-7:** They were familiar with making war with kings, but fighting against the Lord of hosts was a different ball game. God will “lift up your skirts over your face” and “throw filth at you”. He will humiliate and expose them. And who will grieve over Nineveh? Who will comfort them? No one is to be found.



Chapter 3:

- Vs. 8-11:** Are you better than Thebes?
- ❖ **Vs. 8-9:** Thebes or No-amon was the city of the god Amon. She felt protected with the Mediterranean Sea around her and others to help. Destroyed in 663 B.C. by the Assyrians.
 - ❖ **Vs. 10-11:** Thebes went into captivity. Want to know how brutal the Assyrians were? “Her infants were dashed in pieces at the head of every street:” The Assyrians will also feel their pain. They will hide, but no help will come.



Chapter 3:

Vs. 12-15: Behold, your troops are women in your midst.

- ❖ **Vs. 12-13:** They are ready to be devoured. They are weak and open for attacks.
- ❖ **Vs. 14-15:** They are instructed to draw water because of the fire coming and to make bricks for their forts and walls.
 - It's estimated that their walls were 8 miles long, 100 feet high, and 50-100 feet in width.
 - Ancient historians say that as the siege drew toward the end, the king and his family withdrew into the palace and set fire to it, dying in the holocaust.



Chapter 3:

Vs. 16-19: Behold, your troops are women in your midst.

- ❖ **Vs. 16:** The Assyrians gained their size and power because of trade. They had multiplied their wealth by the countless number of merchants, but now the “locust” will come in, strip them of everything, and fly away.
- ❖ **Vs. 17:** Their princes (commanders) and scribes (marshals) will be like locust who “freeze” at night and then fly away when day hits. They will not be found.
- ❖ **Vs. 18-19:** Almost everyone will be dead. Those who remain will be scattered. It’s a death blow. Those who suffered from the hands of the Assyrians will rejoice. You reap what you sow.



Nahum in MY life

❖ His Name Is Jealous (1:2)

Deuteronomy 32:35-43; Nahum 1:15; Hebrews 12:25-29

❖ God Will Lift Our Skirts, Too (3:5)

Matthew 5, 6, 23; James 4:1-5; Hebrews 10:26-31; Romans 11:22

❖ God Can Break The Yoke IF You'll Let Him (1:12-13)

Matthew 11:28-30; Nahum 1:7