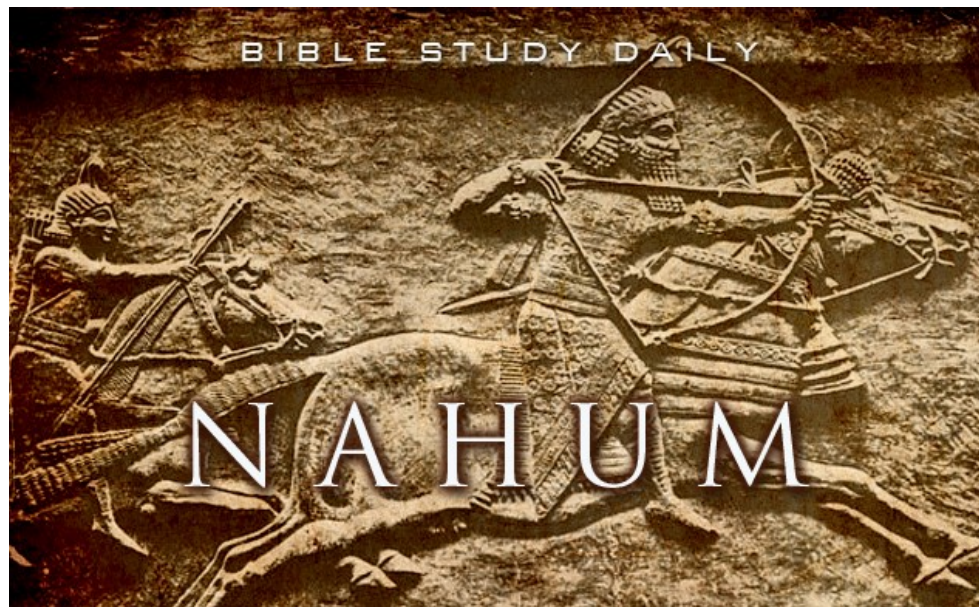




BIBLE STUDY DAILY



This document contains the introduction to the book of Nahum as well as my study notes for the book.

Name

The book of Naham is named for its author, Hosea of Elkosh . Naham means “consolation” or “comfort.”

Author

Naham the Elkoshite received an oracle from the Lord (v. 1).

Genre

Prophecy (seventh of twelve books commonly referred to as the “Minor Prophets”).

Literary Form

Prophetic prophecy except for a prose introduction in verse 1.

Time Frame

Naham does not specifically date the book. However, Naham mentions the fall of Thebes (Thebes was also known as No-Amon, Naham 3:8) and that took place in 663 B.C. so it was written after that. The fall of Nineveh which Naham is prophesying occurred in 612 B.C. so it had to have been written before then. Thus the book of Naham was most likely written between 663-612 B.C.

Emphasis

The emphasis of the book of Naham is on the Lord’s judgement against the Assyrians.

Naham’s oracle was directed to Nineveh and the Assyrian nation. After the repentance described in Jonah the Ninevites had returned to their evil ways and had come under God’s judgement once again. Naham describes the destruction of powerful Nineveh and the pronounces woes upon them.

Word of God’s judgement upon the Assyrians would have been comforting to the people of Judah.

Outline

- 1) God’s vengeance and judgement of Nineveh (1:1-1:15)
- 2) The complete destruction of Nineveh (2:1-13)
- 3) The reasons for Nineveh’s fall (3:1-19)

What I Noticed Today (Nahum 1-3)

Nahum 1-3

Each chapter of Nahum has a distinct message. Nahum 1 is a victory psalm celebrating the Lord's victory over Nineveh (before it happens). Nahum 2 explains what the Lord will do to bring about the destruction of Nineveh. Nahum 3 explains the reasons for God's judgment against Nineveh.

Nahum 1

In verse 1 Nahum describes his prophecy as an "oracle."

Note: The word oracle may also be translated as "burden" or "word." It was used in conjunction with a message received from God either to provide guidance or to answer a question.

In verses 2-8 Nahum sings a victory hymn to God. God is a jealous God, who will avenge His enemies. He is slow to anger but great in power and will not ignore the guilty. No one can withstand His indignation or the heat of His anger. He will make an end to His enemies.

Note: Some translations of verse 8 specifically mention Nineveh. Nineveh is not in the Hebrew text but is clearly intended by the context of the passage (v. 1).

In verses 9-11 Nahum says whatever Nineveh is plotting against the Lord will not succeed.

In verses 12-15 the Lord has commanded Nineveh be destroyed with no place to worship because they are vile. This will be good news to the people of Judah because Nineveh will be cut off. Judah should resume their worship festivals and fulfill their vows.


Nahum 2

In verses 1-6 Nahum describes the "scatterer" who will come against Nineveh. The Lord's army will plunder those who plunder Judah and Israel.

In verses 7-13 Nineveh is destroyed; plundered until nothing is left. There is only desolation and ruin where the palace once stood (the reference to the lion's den). The Lord is against Nineveh. He will burn their chariots and the sword will devour their young lions (princes) until there will not even be a messenger left.

Nahum 3

In verses 1-7 Nahum pronounces a woe on the city of Nineveh (in this case the woe is the notice of impending judgment & death). Nineveh was a city of



blood and lies.

Note: Nineveh was known for their brutal treatment of their enemies. They would maim captives by cutting off body parts, impale them on stakes and strip off their skin, and cut off enemy's heads and pile the skulls at the entrance of the city.

When God attacked there would be corpses everywhere.

God was opposed to the Ninevites because they trampled on the innocent. Because of this, He would bring shame upon them. There will be no one to grieve for Nineveh and no one to comfort them.

In verses 8-11 Nahum calls out how the Assyrians conquered Thebes (in Egypt) saying it would be no different for Nineveh. None of Thebe's allies were a help to her and the people were sent into exile. The Assyrians were ruthless with the people of Thebes and so God would bring similar ruthlessness to Nineveh.

In verses 8-12 Nineveh's fortresses would be of no help. Their enemies would set fire to the city gates and rush in taking the city. After the fire would come the sword of the armies as numerous as grasshoppers. The people will be scattered and the leaders will be gone (no shepherds). When people hear of the fall of Nineveh they will clap their hands.