

The Minor Prophets - Nahum

- Introduction
 - Nahum (נַחֻם na-chuwim) means “comfort”.
 - There is only one man in the O.T. with this name.
 - He is identified as Nahum the Elkoshite [1:1], but the identification of Elkosh is uncertain.
 - In the 16th century Jewish writers identified Al-Qush (north of Nineveh) as the birthplace of Nahum.
 - Capernaum means village of Nahum.
 - Dating is 663-612 B.C.
 - Thebes (No-Amon) has been destroyed [3:8].
 - Nineveh’s destruction is prophesied.
 - The book is titled The Oracle of Nineveh [1:1].
 - An oracle is a burden.
 - Habakkuk and Malachi are also oracles.
 - Zechariah, Ezekiel and Isaiah contain oracles.
- Observations from the Text
 - Yahweh is jealous and avenging [1:2-6; Ex 20:5-7; Ps 94:1-23] and is good [1:7].
 - There is no discrepancy here – the vengeance of God is the execution of His justice in defense of His righteousness [Ex 34:6-7; Ps 58:10-11].
 - This goodness and vengeance are embodied in the Son [Ps 2:12].
 - Assyria’s wicked counselor will fail [1:8-11, 14] while Judah will be set free [1:12-13].
 - The defeat of the wicked counselor of Assyria is celebrated [1:15-2:7].
 - Feet on the mountain are beautiful with their good news of peace [1:15] and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ [Isa 40:9; 52:7; 60:6; 61:1].
 - The one who scatters (shatters) will no longer come against Israel [2:1 cf. Jer 51:20-23].
 - The den of lions had their wickedness returned to them [2:8-13; 1 Sam 25:39; Ps 7:16].
 - Nineveh is going to be completely destroyed [3:1-19].
 - Nineveh had become the center of harlotries and sorceries [3:4].
 - Nineveh was defeated before any invaders arrived as they had corrupt and abusive leaders [3:17-19].
- Applications for Today
 - Vengeance is always to be left to the Lord [Rom 12:19-21].
 - Past repentance and forgiveness gives subsequent rebellion and evil an even greater consequence [Matt 18:21-35; Heb 10:29-31].
 - Crafty schemes of the “wise” have no chance of succeeding [1 Cor 3:19; Ps 37:12-15].
 - Tools in God’s hand must boast in the Lord [Jer 9:23-24; 1 Cor 1:26-31].