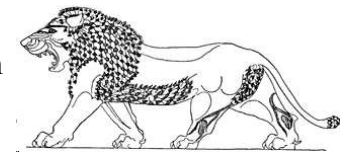


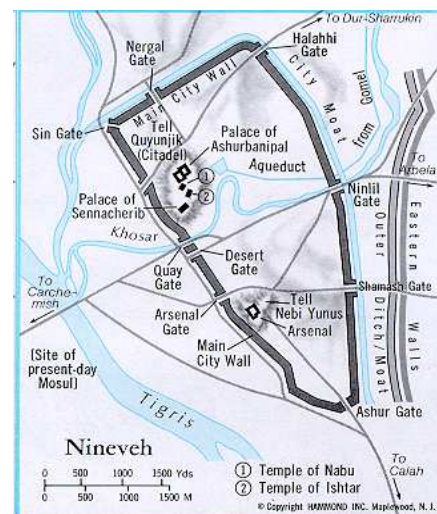
## NAHUM

### I. INTRODUCTION TO NAHUM

- A. Nahum's name means "consolation" and is a short form of the name "Nehemiah."
- B. He was probably from the area around Galilee.
1. Elkosh was believed by Jerome (340 - 420 AD) to be in Galilee
  2. Some believe Elkosh to have been in Southern Judah
  3. The word "Capernaum" means "village of Nahum, although we do not know that this was the same Nahum that wrote this prophecy. Capernaum is in Galilee.
- C. Nahum's date can be known by referring to history and Nahum 3:8-10 which describes the fall of Thebes ("No" is "Thebes"), and the Fall of Nineveh.
1. It fell to the Assyrians in 661 B.C.
  2. Since Nahum was written after this, we know the date of Nahum to be no earlier than 661 B.C.
  3. Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. and was after Nahum's writing
  4. Nahum was probably written sometime around 655 B.C., about 100 years after Jonah.
- D. Nahum's objective is twofold
1. To comfort Judah over the destruction of their enemy, the Assyrians
  2. To declare the destruction of Nineveh.
- E. Nineveh - an unlikely site of defeat
1. Nineveh had been originally built by Nimrod, shortly after the flood. (Gen 10:9-11) shortly after 2350 B.C. (approx.)
  2. It rose to power in 900 B.C.
  3. In 722 B.C., Assyria (Nineveh was its capital) destroyed the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
  4. The walls of Nineveh were said to be 8 miles in circumference.
  5. They were one hundred feet high and were wide enough that three chariots could ride on them side-by-side.
  6. Towers stretched an additional 100 feet above the peak of the wall.
  7. In addition, there was a moat around the city 150' wide and 60' deep.
  8. Nineveh had provisions within the city to endure a 20 year siege.
  9. The royal palace had an area of almost 100,000 square feet, and its walls were sculptured with scenes of the king's victories.
  10. There were 15 main gates with huge stone bulls standing guard at each.



The Assyrian Lion



11. Its population could have been more than one million.
- F. The destruction of Nineveh
  1. In about 614 B.C., the Babylonians and Medes besieged Nineveh for two years.
  2. In 612 B.C., a sudden rise of the Tigris River washed away part of the walls. Nahum 2:6 says, "The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved."
  3. Nahum 2:3-4 and 3:1-7 describe the conquest and battle.
  4. The destruction was so complete that subsequent generations forgot where Nineveh was even located.
    - a. Alexander the Great fought a battle nearby in 331 B.C. and did not even know a city had ever been in that location.
    - b. It was not found until 1820 (by Englishman Claude James Rich)
- G. Prophecy of Christ
  1. Nahum 1:15 is quoted in Isaiah 52:7 (Isaiah was after Nahum) and refers to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **II. OUTLINE OF NAHUM**

- A. Chapter one
  1. The Character of the LORD (Nahum 1:1-8)
  2. The Condemnation of Nineveh (Nahum 1:9-15)
    - a. Nineveh was "vile" (1:14)
- B. Chapter two
  1. The Siege begins (Nahum 2:1)
  2. The Defeat of Nineveh is described (Nahum 2:1-13)
- C. Chapter three
  1. The cause and irreversibility of the judgment

## **III. APPLICATION**

- A. God judges wickedness, even when it is not among His people Israel.
- B. The enemies of Israel and Judah were judged for their dealings with God's people, even though they were used by God to judge Jacob.
- C. The fulfillment of prophecy in the Bible, however unlikely, is proof that the Bible is God's word.
  1. It was absolutely unlikely that Nineveh would fall, but it did
  2. The way Nineveh fell (flooded gates) was foretold in detail
- D. Anyone who expects to escape judgement should look to examples like Nineveh.

## H A B A K K U K

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. "How Long!" (Habakkuk 1:2)
  - 1. Habakkuk is a book for our day. He had prayed to God because of the wickedness all around him, and there seemed to be no answer.
  - 2. The prophet was burdened with the wicked deeds of his people, and begged God to make things right.
- B. Habakkuk's name means, "Embrace", or possibly "wrestle". Habakkuk did "wrestle" spiritually.
- C. He was a "questioning prophet." (See Habakkuk 1:2-3)
- D. The date of the book is likely to be between 625 and 606 B.C. Perhaps 607.
  - 1. This would be early in Jehoiakim's reign
  - 2. Babylon (the Chaldaens) was increasing its power but had not reached Judah.
  - 3. The Babylonians invaded Judah in 606 B.C.
- E. The prophecy is a complaint with the Lord over the wickedness of Judah (Israel had already been taken captive).
  - 1. It burdened him that his land was so wicked.
  - 2. He was impatient and misunderstood God's timing for complacency.
- F. The striking difference between Habakkuk and the other prophets is that, in this prophecy, the prophet complains to the Lord rather than the Lord initiating the complaint with the prophet.
- G. There is no call for repentance. The opportunity to repent has passed.
- H. Habakkuk is a book of "Woe"
  - 1. To those who steal in order to gain wealth (2:6)
  - 2. To those who covet (2:9)
  - 3. To those who kill in order to build a city (2:12)
  - 4. To those who dispense alcoholic drink (2:15)
  - 5. To those who worship idols (2:19)
- I. Within a few years of Habakkuk's writing, Judah was taken away captive.
- J. "The Just Shall Live By Faith" (Hab 2:4)
  - 1. Quoted in Romans 1:17
  - 2. Cited in Gal 3:11
  - 3. Reiterated in Heb 10:38

### II. OUTLINE OF HABAKKUK

- A. Habakkuk's opening complaint and the Lord's first answer
  - 1. Complaint (1:1-4)
  - 2. Reply (1:5-11)
- B. Habakkuk's understanding of the Lord's judgment (1:12-17, 2:1)
  - 1. He remains somewhat indignant that God is tolerating sin (1:13)
  - 2. He is grieved by sin
- C. The Lord's second reply (2:2-20)
  - 1. God differentiates between pride and faith (2:4)

2. There is hope for the earth in the end (2:14) - the millennial reign
  3. In spite of Habakkuk's false assumption, God IS IN His holy temple, and is in charge (2:20).
- D. Habakkuk's recorded final prayer (3:1-19)
1. This is written very much like a Psalm - it is to be sung
    - a. The word "selah" appears 75 times in the Bible, 72 in Psalms and 3 in Habakkuk.
    - b. The Hebrew word "Shiggaion" is found in Psalm 7 and Habakkuk. It probably means that the song should be sung with emotion.
  2. It seems to be a response to his discourse with God.
  3. The prayer is an acknowledgment of the "terror of the Lord."
    - a. The vision was enough to make him physically ill (3:16)
    - b. But, in the end he resolved to joy in the Lord (3:18-19)

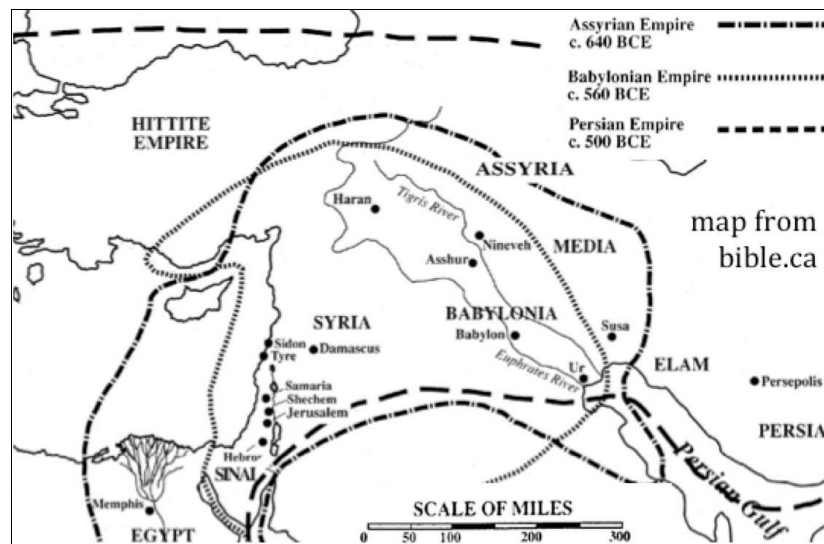
### III. UNDERSTANDING HABAKKUK

- A. Man's view of the problem (i.e. of wickedness in the world) is overly simplistic. To man, the simple solution is for God to "swoop in" and clean out the mess.
- B. It is our lack of understanding of the terrors of God's judgment that lead us to want judgement to come swiftly. Judgement is terrible.
1. When it comes, it is "unbelievable" (1:5)
  2. The complete vision makes Habakkuk ill inside (3:16)
  3. Sin may seem terrible, but God's judgement is more terrible.
- C. Another question addressed in Habakkuk is, "How can God allow a godless nation (like Babylon) to be victorious over His people?" The answer is that God's people will be victorious in the end.

#### Pigs Must Be Careful

One night in late October,  
When I was far from sober;  
I was returning home in all my manly pride  
When my feet began to stutter,  
So I laid down in a gutter,  
And a pig came near and laid down by my side.

A lady was passing by that day,  
And was clearly heard to quietly say,  
"You can tell who boozes,  
By the company he chooses,"  
And the pig got up and slowly walked away!



## H O M E W O R K

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is another name for the city “No” and how does it help us know the date that Nahum was written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What other event allows us to zero in on the date of Nahum’s writing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. List four attributes of the city of Nineveh which made it appear impossible to conquer.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Explain how Nahum 2:6 clearly describes exactly how Nineveh was captured.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How complete was the destruction of Nineveh? (i.e. what is the evidence?)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is the twofold objective of Nahum’s writing?
  - a.
  - b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What passage in Nahum refers to Christ, and in what way?

8. With what problem was Habakkuk frustrated and impatient?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. In Habakkuk 1:2-3, what two Questions does he ask God?
  - a.
  
  
  
  
  
  - b.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Approximately when was Habakkuk written?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. What was the next major event for Judah after Habakkuk's writing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What famous and important phrase in Habakkuk is quoted three times in the New Test.?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. What make Habakkuk different from other minor prophets?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How is Habakkuk chapter three much like the Psalms?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. How could Habakkuk apply to our day (hint: see Hab. 1:2-4)