

Nahum

Who, When, Where

Written by Nahum.

Towards the end of the divided kingdom, about 620BC, 30 years or so before Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians and everyone was dragged off into exile.

The book of Nahum comes a bit less than 150 years after the book of Jonah.

Nahum most likely lived around Galilee, but this prophecy is mostly about Nineveh, the ancient capital of Assyria, (in what is now northern Iraq). Nineveh is across the river from the modern city of Mosul.

Summary

150 years ago Jonah came with a warning that the judgement of Yahweh was against them, and they repented.

But clearly they went back to their old ways and now Nahum has been sent with a final message ... you are about to be completely destroyed and wiped from the face of the earth.

Repenting doesn't seem to be an option this time, it's too late for that.

Before You Read

How far do you think you can push God?

It seems that God gave Israel way more chances than he gave Nineveh. Why do you think that was?

After Jonah, but before Nahum, Sennacherib king of Assyria invaded Israel just after 700BC.

How patient is God?

Key Verses

Nahum 1:15

Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, Judah! Perform your vows, for the wicked one will no more pass through you. He is utterly cut off.

How does that relate to Isaiah 52? Is this a prophecy for Nahum's time or now? The wicked one is utterly cut off? Satan?

After You Read

What verses really stood out to you?

How would you summarize this book in a sentence or two? What is it about? What is God trying to say to us?

Nineveh was actually destroyed in 612BC, about 10 years after this prophecy. And was pretty much unoccupied. About a thousand years later, in about 600AD, the city of Mosul was established on the opposite side of the river.

Do you think that was the fulfillment of the prophecy or is there something more to it?

How does the message of Nahum compare to the message of Revelation 18?