

The Book of Nahum

Chapter 2

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- This chapter is a prophetic view of the climactic battle (vs. 3-7) and devastation (vs. 8-13)
- vs. 1 – God seems to be telling them to get ready because judgment is coming.
- vs. 2 – this verse explains *why* judgement is coming.
 - “...the time for Nineveh's overthrow is ripe, because Jacob... and Israel... have been sufficiently chastised. The Assyrian rod of chastisement, having done its work, is to be thrown into the fire. If God chastised Jacob and Israel with all their "excellency"..., how much more will He punish fatally Nineveh, an alien to Him, and idolatrous?” – Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary
- Note on vs. 3-6 – There are many opinions about particulars here. I think the “he” of vss. 1 and 5 represent the attacking forces, not Nineveh. What I see here is a description of the final assault on the city that focuses on the attacking army.
- vs. 3 – I think the significance of red is that “no quarter” will be given. It is a day of bloodshed.
- vs. 4 – the “firs” being shaken here could be literal trees or weapons.
- vs. 5 – The elite forces are sent forward in attack. The *defense* means “a covering”, meaning either siege weapons or shielded in tortoise formation.
- vs. 6 – The Tigris River floods the city causing substantial damage.
- vs. 7 – Huzzab – means “fixed, established”. I think it must refer to something/someone based on the parallelism of the verse. Some say it was the queen, others that it symbolizes Nineveh.
- vs. 8 – The city is drained as its inhabitants flee.
- vs. 9-10 – The city is spoiled and left desolate.
- vs. 11-12 – Nahum’s sarcastic question regarding the downfall of Nineveh.
- vs. 13 – concerning the “messengers”, John Gill describes them as having been “in foreign courts, demanding homage and subjection; exacting and collecting tribute; blaspheming the God of heaven, and menacing his people, as Rabshakeh, a messenger of one of these kings, did...”

Historical Accounts of Nineveh's Fall

- The following is a translation of a Babylonian chronicle regarding the fall of Nineveh found:
 - “From the month Simanu until the month Âbu - for three months - they subjected the city to a heavy siege. On the Nth day of the month Âbu they inflicted a major defeat upon a great people. At that time Sin-šar-iškun, king of Assyria, died. They carried off the vast booty of the city and the temple and turned the city into a ruin heap. The [?] of Assyria escaped from the enemy and, to save his life, seized the feet of the king of Akkad.” – livius.org
- The following is a translation of the Greek historian Ctesias (via Diodorus Siculus) regarding the fall of Nineveh:
 - “Consequently the siege dragged on, and for two years they pressed their attack, making assaults on the walls and preventing inhabitants of the city from going out into the country; but in the third year, after there had been heavy and continuous rains, it came to pass that the Euphrates, running very full, both inundated a portion of the city and broke down the walls for a distance of twenty stades. At this the king, believing that the oracle had been fulfilled and that the river had plainly become the city's enemy, abandoned hope of saving himself. And in order that he might not fall into the hands of the enemy, he built an enormous pyre in his palace, heaped upon it all his gold and silver as well as every article of the royal wardrobe, and then, shutting his concubines and eunuchs in the room which had been built in the middle of the pyre, he consigned both them and himself and his palace to the flames.” - penelope.uchicago.edu