

The Book of Nahum

Chapter 3

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- We pick up where we left off in Chapter 2 – the great city of Nineveh has been destroyed.
- vs. 1 – The image of the city filled with blood, lies, ill-gotten gain, and the bones of its victims – a grand memorial to its wickedness!
- vs. 2-3 – I think this pictures the survivors of Nineveh being run down as they try to escape.
- vs. 4 – allusions to the immoral and idolatrous practices of the Assyrians that ensnared men and nations deeper into sin.
- vs. 5 – God will reveal Nineveh’s secrets and shame them.
- vs. 6-7 – How the tables are turned! Once the greatest city on earth to being a joke and embarrassment.
- vs. 8 – No (Hebrew *No-Amun*) is what is also called Thebes at today’s Luxor, Egypt. Its ruins are still popular today to visit, especially the Karnak Temple (The second largest religious building ever built behind Angkor Wat). The Assyrians under king Ashurbanipal conquered it in 667 B.C. Concerning its destruction, see also Jeremiah 46:25-26 and Ezekiel 30:14-16.
- vs. 9 – the powerful allies of No/Thebes. Their aid did not stop its destruction. Nineveh appears to have had no such allies to rely upon.
- vs. 10 – The destruction of No/Thebes. The Assyrians are still famous for their cruelty. God is saying here that they cruelty they showed on others will be shown back to them.
- vs. 11 – “thou also shalt be drunken” – “This is said to Nineveh, whose turn would be next to drink of the cup of the wrath of God, and be inebriated with it, so that they should not know where they were, or what they did; and be as unable to guide and help themselves as a drunken man.” – John Gill
- vs. 12 – Anyone who has walked by a fruit tree filled with ripe fruit during a high wind will understand this. Nothing is secure!
- vs. 13 – Nineveh’s troops and defenses are too weak to stand against the judgment to come.
- vs. 14-15 – Similar to 2:1, God is telling to get ready for the judgment but yet nothing they do will stop it.
- vs. 16-18 – Summed up well by A.C. Gaebelein:
 - “Her great commerce, her merchant-princes, were a vast host, like the stars of heaven, but all would soon be devastated, as the cankerworm spoileth and then flies away. Their crowned ones, the chiefs in authority, would all be scattered just as the sunrise scatters the locusts and swarms of grasshoppers

to a place unknown. Their shepherds, the leaders and rulers, under the King of Assyria, would sleep in death, while the population wandered homeless over the mountains, with none to gather them.”

- vs. 19 – The two-fold conclusion of Nahum’s prophecy of judgement:
 - There is no hope for turning – judgment must and will fall upon them.
 - None would mourn the passing of Nineveh and the Assyrian empire – they would celebrate it!