

The Book of Nahum

7

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we study the book of **Nahum**, the seventh book of "The Minor Prophets." We can place the time of Nahum's prophecy quite accurately from the fact that Nahum prophesies Nineveh's fall (which happened in 612 BC) and refers to the fall of Thebes as a past event (which happened in 663 BC). Since he refers to Nineveh's demise as being imminent, we can be reasonably certain that Nahum prophesied during the reign of Josiah, making him a contemporary of Zephaniah and even the young Jeremiah.

We know little about Nahum himself, except that his name means "comfort," and therefore is related to the names Noah and Nehemiah, which both also mean "comfort" (note **Genesis 5:29**). It is perhaps with his own name in mind that Nahum writes in **3:7**:

"All who see you will flee from you and say, 'Nineveh is in ruins – who will mourn for her?' Where can I find anyone to comfort you?"

1:1 reveals the theme of the book: "An oracle concerning Nineveh." Assyria, of which Nineveh was capital, had already swallowed the northern kingdom of Israel, around one century earlier. Now, according to Nahum, was the time for God's judgment against Nineveh – a judgment that had been temporarily averted during the ministry of Jonah, almost 200 years before.

Read Nahum 1:2-3

Read Exodus 34:6-7

Nahum begins his prophecy with a recount of God's own self-declaration to Moses, and proceeds from there to proclaim the impending judgment of God upon the Ninevites. This prophecy was fulfilled when Babylon defeated the Assyrians and took over their empire.

Let's now sit back and read the book of **Nahum** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and purify us from
all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Your Fishing Kit

This is the nineteenth verse in your fishing kit. **1 John 1:9** follows on from **1 John 1:8** by immediately bringing an answer to the problem of sin. Provision has already been made by God, through Jesus Christ, for our sin to be forgiven and cleansed. Forgiveness is there for the asking, and God is “faithful and just” in dispensing the forgiveness won on the Cross.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.