

# Old Testament Survey

## Nahum

### ***The Meaning of Nahum***

Nahum's name means "consolation." His message is that God will vindicate his righteousness in destroying the ungodly nation of Assyria.

### ***General Outline of Nahum***

- I. A Psalm of God's Majesty - Nahum 1:1-2:2
  - A. God's vengeance upon sinners and his mercy towards his own people - Nahum 1:2-11
  - B. The coming restoration of Judah - Nahum 1:12-2:2
- II. Prophecy of the Fall of Nineveh - Nahum 2:3-3:19
  - A. The siege and destruction of the city - Nahum 2:3-13
  - B. Reason for Nineveh's fall - Nahum 3:1-19

### ***The Place of the Prophet's Origin***

1. Nahum is said to be a resident of Elkosh. The identity and location of this town is difficult to determine.
2. Four theories as to the identity of Elkosh exist:
  - a. Jerome identified it as Elkesi in Galilee.
  - b. Others identify it as Capernaum, which signifies *village of Nahum*.
  - c. Alqush near Mosul in Assyria.
  - d. Elcesei which was a village in the tribal area of Simeon. This is favored by many since Nahum appears to be a resident of the southern kingdom of Judah.

### ***Date of Composition***

1. Nahum alludes to the fall of Thebes which occurred in the year 661 B.C. Thus the book must have been written after that date.
2. The fall of Nineveh is still seen as future, thus the book had to be written prior to 612 B.C. when Nineveh fell to the Babylonians.
3. Liberal scholars, of course, like to postdate Nahum after the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C., and others like to see multiple sources.
4. The best date appears to be around the year 650 B.C. although we cannot be certain of this.

### ***Message of Nahum***

1. Nahum 2:6 is an extremely accurate prediction of how Nineveh fell. In 612 B.C. part of its city walls were washed away by a flood of the river which supplied the city's water.

2. Nineveh was conquered by a coalition of the Medes and Babylonians. 612 B.C. marked the rise of the Babylonian empire which was to rule the world for the next 75 years or so.
3. The rejoicing tone of Nahum in describing the overthrow of this city is seen by some to be contrary to the character of a prophet. However, we must remember that the nation of Assyria was a brutal and godless nation. Their destruction was to be seen as a vindication of God's righteousness and justice.