

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

NAHUM 1

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The Book of Nahum is the second book in the Old Testament canon that deals specifically with the ancient capital of the Assyrian Empire, Nineveh. Jonah, of course, is who everyone thinks of when the name of Nineveh comes up in conversation. Jonah has a unique place in our minds for more than one reason. Jonah stands out as unusual to many because Jonah's message was heeded in the eighth century as he proclaimed God's message of repentance, and Jonah was grieved that God had granted mercy to a repentant, godless people. The normal response would have been praise and rejoicing. A century later, God used the Assyrians to chastise and scatter the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. Many are amazed at the reality that God uses nations, more ungodly nations than those of Israel and Judah, to bring judgment upon His people. God has always done this throughout history. This is why, as we shall see, Habakkuk, the prophet, was puzzled and complained to God about the Babylonians and the coming predicted destruction of Judah by that wicked nation. But God has the final say.

Just a little over a century after the Assyrians, whose capital was Nineveh, destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, Nahum is prophesying the end of the ancient

empire. Nahum probably lived during the great days of godly King Josiah and the revival that took place under him. I date Nahum's prophesy somewhere around 620 B.C. Nineveh was destroyed in 612 B.C. by the rising Babylonians under the able leadership of Naboplassar, the father of Nebuchadnezzar of the Book of Daniel. The final blow to the kingdom of Assyria came in 605 B.C. at the Battle of Carchemish when Assyria and Pharaoh Necho of Egypt were thoroughly defeated by the Babylonians. This set in order the events of Daniel and fulfilled Jeremiah's prophesy. But God has the final say.

God judged the Assyrians because, after the days of Jonah, the nation slipped back into the idolatrous ways they had before Jonah's arrival and the great revival. As you will see, God did the same with Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome...America? Great nations rise or fall in history depending on their relationship to God and His purposes. When any nation turns its back on God and the ways of God as revealed in the Bible, it is only a matter of time before judgment falls.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear God in Heaven, please have mercy upon the United States of America. Amen.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____

