

# NAHUM 2 vs 1

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Little is known about Nahum, whose name means: **consolation**; except that he possibly came from **Capernaum** which means: **the village of Nahum**... suggesting the prophet once lived there. Jerome indicated the book of Nahum has a graphic description of the Assyrian: Sennacherib and his army and makes the case that he was in or near Jerusalem at the time, thus the number of corresponding phrases to those of prophet Isaiah. Nahum lived 150 years after Jonah, when Nineveh was destroyed in 612 bc. Prophecy has a dual purpose; to tell historic events years ago; but all scripture is written for our benefit. If God loved something long ago; be certain He doesn't hate it today. Reading the minor prophets, it is apparent that as the Gentile nations come to a close, we are still reading relevant truths. God doesn't mind if after we read, we conclude how terrible it was for them; but He also wants us to ask: do we see similar things in the news today?



The Advance of Destroying Forces against Nineveh, after it was used as God's rod for a time to correct His people.

**<sup>1</sup> One who shatters in pieces has come up against you / Nineveh: guard the weapons, watch the road, strengthen your vital parts, reinforce your mighty power.**

**<sup>2</sup> For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob, like the splendor of Israel: for the plunderers / the Assyrians sent by God... have plundered them, and ruined their vine branches.**

**<sup>3</sup> The shields of his warriors are dried red, the valiant men are dressed in scarlet / John Calvin wrote: the ancients dyed their shields red, ostensibly to strike terror into the enemy, though chiefly lest the blood from wounds which they might receive should be perceived and give confidence to him: the fittings of the chariot flash like fire, on the day he is prepared to march, and the spears are brandished.**

**<sup>4</sup> The chariots dash madly in the streets, they rush one against another in the plazas: they look like torches, they dart back and forth like lightning / the glitter of their polished iron weapons was amazing; their wheels in lightning-like rapidity... rotating and flashing light and striking sparks from the stones over which they pass.**

**<sup>5</sup> He remembers His nobles / reviewing and choosing out the bravest to hasten to the walls and repel the attack, but it is in vain: they stumble in their march; they hurry to its wall, as the defense shield of the besiegers is set in place.**

**<sup>6</sup> The river gates are opened, and the palace washes away / the city was thought invincible; its vast area took Jonah 3 days to walk around; it's massive walls and moats and dams were deceptively secure; yet the watery defenses of the city had been breached.**

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<sup>7</sup> **Huzzab** / it is determined, Nineveh, queen of the middle east... **is stripped, her people are carried away captive, and her assistants moan like the sound of doves, and beat their breasts.**

<sup>8</sup> **Nineveh was like a pool of water from her first days: now they are fleeing. Stop, stop! they cry; but none turn back** / the few patriots shout to the citizens, but to no avail, they are panic-stricken.

<sup>9</sup> **Plunder the silver, plunder the gold. There is no end to the treasure; an abundance of ever pleasant things** / Nineveh's riches arose from the annual tribute paid by so many subject states, as well as from its extensive merchandise.

<sup>10</sup> **She is emptied! Yes, she is deserted and devastated! Hearts melt, knees knock, loins are pained, and every face grows pale.**

<sup>11</sup> **Where is the lair of the lions now, and the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion and lioness, and lion cubs prowled, and nothing would disturb them?** / Nineveh, the great seat of empire by the rapacious and destructive warriors of various ranks; Nahum asks, where is it now?

<sup>12</sup> **The lion tore a portion for his cubs, and mauled enough for his lionesses, and filled its lairs with prey, and its dens with torn flesh.**

<sup>13</sup> **Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will make her chariots go up in smoke, and swords will devour your young lions: and I will cut off your portion from the earth, and the voice of your messengers will never be heard again** / your most modern weapons of war will disintegrate; and since you lived by war, so your best will die by war; and your whiny sociopathic emissaries who demanded tribute from conquered nations will not be heard from again.

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