

ABATT
Nahum

Christian Life Assembly
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The Minor Prophets		
Prophet	Date of Writing	Prophesied to:
Obadiah	845-750	Israel/Edom
Joel	835-796	Judah
Jonah	793-753	Niniveh
Hosea	753-715	Israel
Amos	760-755	Israel/Judah
Micah	770-710	Israel/Judah
Nahum	663-612	Niniveh
Zepheniah	635-625	Judah/Assyria/Nations
Habbakuk	610-605	Judah/Nations
Haggai	520	Judah
Zechariah	520-470	Judah
Malachi	460-410	Judah

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The Minor Prophets

- Every prophecy in Nahum has been fulfilled – so what is in his writings for us?
- **History lessons** – what God sent on the Assyrians is but one example of how he moves against wickedness in this world.
- The lessons for us can be seen through the lens of history and civilizations that came before us.

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The Minor Prophets

• The "Tytler Cycle" written in 1787 - A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy, which is always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations from the beginning of history, has been about 200 years. During those 200 years, these nations always progressed through the following sequence:

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The Minor Prophets



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The Minor Prophets

- The Book of Nahum was most likely written between 663 and 612 B.C. - it is one of the more difficult O.T. books to determine when it was written.
- It is clearly written by Nahum – 1:1 **This message concerning Nineveh came as a vision to Nahum, who lived in Elkosh.** NLT
- The prophecy was about Nineveh, and unlike the message Jonah carried, repent and avoid judgment, Nahum's message is one of pure doom. (Judah beware)

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum may have seen the destruction of Israel by the Assyrians, so he is not a neutral observer. He knew of their viciousness.
- Why doesn't Nahum go to Assyria as Jonah did?
- Perhaps because they have already had light, and then rejected it. (Matt 6:23b So if the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!)

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The Minor Prophets

“The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.”

Nahum 1:2

The above is the view of God that is often rejected and criticized, but this too is a picture of a “loving” God.

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The Minor Prophets

- When God speaks of his jealousy in verse #2, he is emphasizing that he wants no rivals. (Commandment #1)
- God wants no rivals because they are all false ones anyway and to think we have a choice of gods is absurd on its face and insulting to Him.
- Those who think God wanting no rivals is petty and immature, know little to nothing about him!

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The Minor Prophets

If you desire a god who overlooks sin,
then you do not want the God of the
Bible, you want sin and all that comes
with it!

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The Minor Prophets

- Why does Nahum start with God being jealous and vengeful?
- Because the Assyrians had messed with the OT “wife” of Jehovah when they attacked, destroyed, and disbursed the Northern Kingdom.
- Romans 12:19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written: “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. ESV

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The Minor Prophets

We would not want a world, or
a universe, or an eternity
without the justice of God –
remove his vengeance on sin
and you remove a deterrent
on sin.

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The Minor Prophets

"Though sentenced against an evil work be not executed speedily, it will be executed at last. Jezebel may flourish in her iniquities for many years, but finally the horses trample her body in the streets and the dogs gnaw and crunch her royal bones. Long was the old world left to drive its crimes, jeer at Noah, fling defiance in the face of God, but soon the earth breaks down beneath their feet and their lifeless bodies are dashed upon each other amid the waves of a world ocean. The trampled law of God will assert its rightful honor and Christ will not endure the smittings, taunts, and wrongs of Pilate's Hall forever. And when these trumpets once give their blast, the vibration will run through the universe and everything created for human blessedness shall turn into a source of disaster to them who know not God and obey not the gospel of Christ."

Joseph Augustus Seiss

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The Minor Prophets

- It was common in OT times for a pagan nation to assume that if they conquered a rival, they also conquered the rival's gods. (recall "Dagon" and how it wilted in the presence of the ark of the covenant?)
- The Assyrians had conquered Israel, brutalized its citizens, and utterly destroyed their cities.
- But Israel's God could neither be conquered nor captured – the Assyrians will find that out roughly 100 years later.

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The Minor Prophets

- God will use Babylon to destroy the Assyrians and their capital city of Nineveh.
- So why exactly is God judging the Assyrians?
- Because they went through Israel like a knife through hot butter – they were their usual brutal selves and Israel was all but defenseless in their path because Jehovah would not protect them.

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The Minor Prophets

A mysterious move of God was prophesied by Isaiah in 730 BC, about 8 years in advance of Assyria conquering the Northern Kingdom.

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The Minor Prophets

- Isaiah 10:5 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! 6 Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. ESV
- Assyria is God’s rod of anger and staff of indignation – they are commanded to rob, plunder, and mow down this godless nation of Israel!

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The Minor Prophets

- Isaiah 10:7 **But he does not so intend**, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few; ESV
- What God called the Assyrians to do was not their own intention – Assyria did have lots of plans to conquer and destroy, but not Israel.
- Assyria will be used, even directed unknowingly, by Jehovah to destroy Israel. (**he does not so intend**)

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The Minor Prophets

So, God will use Assyria to judge Israel and then judge Assyria for their attacks on Israel?
(wait, what?)

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The Minor Prophets

- Yes, you have it right! Could Assyria cry “unfair” back to God?
- They would have no just complaint to do so because while God used Assyria to judge Israel, the Assyrians were not innocent puppets.
- The English word, “fair” or “fairness” is never applied to God’s dealings with humanity anywhere in the Bible. God is not fair, he is just.

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The Minor Prophets

- The same city, Nineveh, that repented at the preaching of Jonah, is now 150 years older and is back in the business of all sin, all the time.
- This time, God is not sending a warning, he is having Nahum preach doom to the people.
- Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and **he never lets the guilty go unpunished.** NLT (Romans 8:1)

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The Minor Prophets

“We need to understand that God is glorified just as much in his wrath as he is in his grace!”

All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. Psalm 145

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum 1:12 Thus says the Lord, “Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.” (meaning they would be no more)

- Nahum 1:14 The Lord has given commandment about you: “No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile.” ESV

- Both of the above sound final, do they not?

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum 2:10 Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale! ESV

- Nineveh will learn first-hand there is certain terror when one encounters Jehovah as your judge – and there should be!

- When we read, “hearts melt, knees tremble, guts are twisted, and color leaves your face” they are more than metaphors. (all at the Great White Throne)

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum 3:1-4 lays out the case for the viciousness of those whom God was about to judge.
- The Assyrians were known for brutality – they would chop up their enemies, skin their bodies and hang their heads on trees.
- They cut off hands, ears, noses and used the skin of their enemies to cover their furniture.

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The Minor Prophets

- Nineveh is in worse condition when Nahum preaches than they were when Jonah was sent there.
- One would think that a nation that had once been converted and turned from their sin would never fall to the depth of their previous selves.
- Let the one who claims Christ today be warned that “dabbling” in Christianity is dangerous.

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The Minor Prophets

- 2nd Peter 2:20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.” ESV (this is a judgment in itself)

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The Minor Prophets

- Peter gives us a view of what happened to Nineveh where one generation turned from gross sin only to have later generations sink lower.
- Peter has professors in mind – “they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”.
- The group Peter addresses are those whose failure to endure proves they never had saving faith.

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The Minor Prophets

Satan does not seek to make us hate God - he seeks to make us forget God.

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The Minor Prophets

- Nineveh is an example of a people who had worn out their welcome with God’s patience. They had simply sunk too low.
- Nahum 3:19 There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil? ESV
- It is common to let bygones be bygones when someone dies, but evidently not for the Ninevites – people applauded as the Babylonians came in and devoured them!

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The Minor Prophets

- Yes, God is patient, kind, gracious, and long-suffering, but there are limits to his patience.
- When the time comes that one has resisted too long, and has gone too far from God, (and only God knows) he will seal that person's fate.
- When God gives up on you, like he did on Nineveh, there is no remedy – you will not want to repent, and you will not be able to repent. (Romans 1 reprobates)

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The Minor Prophets

- Chapters 2 and 3 are about God's judgment on the Assyrians – despite their utter evilness it is not easy to read what awaits them.
- Just as God used the godless Assyrians to judge godless Israel, he will use the godless Babylonians to judge the godless Assyrians.
- Just as Amos warned Israel, "prepare to meet thy God" Nahum will now announce to Nineveh, "prepare to meet the God of Israel".

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder— no end to the prey! (they never had enough)
- Nahum 3:3 Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, hosts of slain, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end. (they showed no mercy)
- Nahum 3:5 Behold, I am against you, declares the Lord of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame. (they will be humiliated)

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The Minor Prophets

- Nahum 3:12 – The Lord belittles their fortresses comparing them to ripe figs that fall with the slightest breeze. (pushovers)
- Nahum 3:13 the Lord belittles Nineveh’s armies by calling their soldiers “women”. (weak)
- Nahum 3:15 There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. (just bugs)

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The Minor Prophets

If God sends a message of doom,
you may still be able to repent,
but it better be now!

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Questions?

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The Minor Prophets

Chapter 1 The destruction of Nineveh decreed.

- God's pronouncement of judgment.

Chapter 2 The destruction of Nineveh described.

- God describes what will happen in his judgment.

Chapter 3 The destruction of Nineveh deserved.

- God will add details of why judgment had to fall on Nineveh.

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