

# Introduction to Nahum and the Jealousy of God

Nahum 1:1-2

## A. What is the book of Nahum?

“The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.” – Nahum 1:1

- “burden”
- “vision”

### ***Quick facts about Nahum***

- Audience: The Southern kingdom of Judah
- Purpose: Consolation concerning the end of the wicked
- Author: Nahum
- Date of writing: 663 B.C. to 654 B.C.

### ***A brief biblical history of Nineveh & Assyria after the ministry of Jonah***

- Within 10 years of Jonah:
  - 2 Kings 15:19-20 – Assyria made Northern Israel into a vassal state.
- Within 20 years of Jonah:
  - 2 Kings 15:29 – Assyria took cities of Northern Israel and carried off captives.
- Within 30 years of Jonah:
  - 2 Kings 16:7-9 – Ahaz king of Judah hired Assyria to rescue Judah from the armies of Northern Israel and Syria.
  - 2 Kings 17:5-6 – Assyria attacked and besieged the capital city of Northern Israel, Samaria. After a three-year siege, Samaria and the Northern kingdom fell.
- Within 50 years of Jonah:
  - 2 Kings 18:13 – Sennacherib, king of Assyria, conquered many walled cities of Judah.
  - 2 Kings 18:17-37 – Sennacherib’s servants arrogantly threaten the people of Jerusalem.
  - 2 Kings 19:5-7 – Isaiah assured king Hezekiah that Assyria would not conquer Jerusalem.
- Within 100 years of Jonah:
  - Nahum writes his prophecy concerning the destruction of Nineveh, Assyria’s capital.

## B. What is revealed in the book of Nahum?

The character of God is declared, explained, and applied in Nahum chapter 1 from the context of the downtrodden people of Judah in their day.

The claims about God's character are validated with the vision of how God will enforce justice against the wicked and arrogant people of Assyria; the vision of Nineveh's downfall is described and explained in Nahum chapters 2 and 3.

### ***The central argument of Nahum***

- God is jealous; (1:2)
- God is gracious; (1:3a)
- God is omnipotent; (1:3b)
- God is just; (1:3c)
  - Therefore, God is good. (1:7)

### ***The jealousy of God – Nahum 1:2***

- *Working definition of jealousy:* A zealous desire to take or maintain possession of something.
- Things God gets jealous about:
  - His reputation/glory
  - His people

## C. How can the book of Nahum help me?

1. By revealing God, it can lead me to \_\_\_\_\_ God and grow in \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
2. By comforting victims of evil, it can \_\_\_\_\_ me in my own struggles with evil.
3. By showcasing prophecy fulfilled, it can demonstrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of my Bible.