

# A Great Fall

Nahum 2:1-13

## A. The Attack – 2:1-6

**Nahum 2:1** – Nineveh, brace for impact!

- “He who scatters” – the attackers God will use to judge Nineveh
- “has come up” – a prophetic perfect tense verb speaking of the arrival of the scattering armies, describing history before it took place
  - *Fulfillment*: A coalition of armies led by King Nabopolassar the Babylonian and King Cyaxeres the Mede, joined by several lesser kingdoms including the Scythians, besieged and took the city of Nineveh in 612 B.C. (Babylonian Tablet: *Fall of Nineveh*)
- “Man the fort! Watch the road! Strengthen your flanks! Fortify your power mightily!” – irony!

**Nahum 2:2** – Why is the LORD angry?

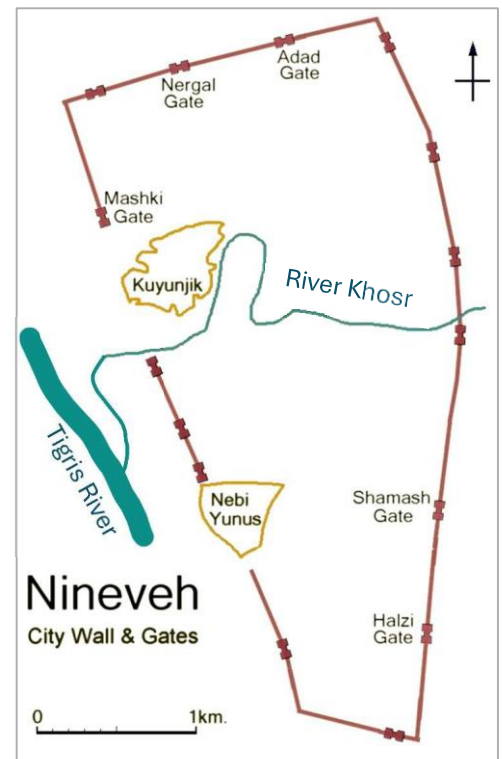
- “For the LORD will restore the excellence of Jacob...” – He is jealous for the excellence of His people whom He loves
- “For the emptiers have emptied...” – Assyria is the emptier

**Nahum 2:3-4** – The intimidating approach

- “made red... in scarlet” – The Babylonians/Chaldeans were known for wearing red (Ezek. 23:14)
- “The chariots rage... jostle... like torches... like lightening” – the approach of Nineveh’s enemies was chaotic and surprising

**Nahum 2:5-6** – Too late for Nineveh

- “He remembers... they stumble... they make haste” – The response to a sudden attack
- “And the defense is prepared” – The approaching army was ready before Assyria
- “gates of the rivers are opened... palace dissolved” – Nahum saw a flash-flood destruction
  - *Fulfillment*: The historian Diodorus (60-30 B.C.) wrote “there had been heavy and continuous rains” which caused a nearby river to flood part of the city and break part of the walls (*Bibliotheca Historica* 2. 26. 9; 2. 27.3). The historian Xenophon (c. 400 B.C.) referred to terrifying thunder from a storm associated with the city’s capture (*Anabasis*, 3.4.12).



## ***B. The Aftermath of the Attack – 2:7-12***

### **Nahum 2:7** – Captivity for the captors

- “It is decreed” – God’s final decision had been made
- “She” is describing Nineveh, whose few survivors will be led away captive

### **Nahum 2:8-10** – Emptiness for the emptiers

- “ ‘Halt! Halt!’ But no one turns back.” – Desperate words from the king would be ignored
- “Take spoil... She is empty, desolate, and waste!” – Total destruction is foretold
  - *Fulfillment:* In the fourteenth year of Nabopolassar (612 B.C.), “They carried off the vast booty of the city and the temple and turned the city into a ruin heap” (Babylonian Tablet: *Fall of Nineveh*)
- “The heart melts...” describes the grave terror which will be felt by the Ninevites

### **Nahum 2:11-12** – The lions of Assyria declawed and homeless

- “the dwelling of the lions” = Nineveh
- “lions... young lions... lioness... lion’s cub... cubs” = Assyrians who lived in Nineveh

## ***C. If God Is Against You – 2:13***

### **Nahum 2:13** – The LORD declares that Nineveh is His enemy

- “The LORD of hosts” – a reminder of His authority
- What would the LORD take away from Assyria?

### *Christian Application:* If God is for us...

- Nahum 1:7
- Hebrews 13:5-6
- Romans 8:31-34