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The Chapters of Nahum

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Nahum

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (NAHUM 1-3)

Nahum predicts and describes Nineveh's fall.

I. NAHUM'S PREDICTION OF NINEVEH'S FALL (1:1-7, 9-15; 2:12; 3:1, 4-10)

A. The purpose (1:1-2, 7, 9-15; 2:12; 3:1, 4-10): God will accomplish this for two reasons:

1. To protect Judah (1:1-2, 7, 13, 15)
 - a. Jehovah's confirmation (1:1-2, 7): Nahum says God is jealous over those he loves and takes vengeance on all who would harm them.
 - b. Judah's celebration (1:13, 15): The people will soon rejoice over the destruction of the cruel Assyrian Empire.
2. To punish Nineveh (1:9-12, 14; 2:12; 3:1, 4-10): Her wickedness will bring down God's wrath. Nineveh will be destroyed for her:
 - a. Defiance of God (1:9-12)
 - b. Idolatry (1:14)
 - c. Terrible bloodshed (2:12; 3:1)
 - d. Involvement in the occult (3:4-10)

B. The power (1:3-6): Nahum says when sinful men (in this case the Assyrians) exhaust God's patience, they face the terrible power of God's wrath, which is like:

1. A raging storm (1:3-5)
2. A consuming fire (1:6)

II. NAHUM'S DESCRIPTION OF NINEVEH'S FALL (1:8; 2:1-11, 13; 3:2-3, 11-19)

A. The sources of her destruction (1:8; 2:3-4)

1. Waters will overflow her (1:8): The Tigris River will rush through a breach in the walls and will help to destroy the city.
2. Babylonian warriors will invade her (2:3-4).

B. The severity of her destruction (2:1-2, 6-11, 13; 3:2-3, 11-19)

1. As foretold by God (3:11-15)
 - a. The city will stagger like a terrified drunkard (3:11).
 - b. All its fortresses will fall (3:12).
 - c. Its soldiers will be helpless (3:13a).
 - d. Nineveh will be sacked and burned (3:13b-15).
2. As fulfilled by God (2:1-2, 6-11, 13; 3:2-3, 16-19)
 - a. The overview of the battle for Nineveh (2:1-2): The Ninevites struggle to defend themselves, but to no avail.
 - b. The outcome following the battle for Nineveh (2:6-11, 13; 3:2-3, 16-19): Nineveh is completely obliterated.