

21. Nahum

(Version 4.2) 7-21-17

1:1 The burden of Nineveh.
The scroll of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

Nahum means comfort.

1:2 A zealous and revenging El is **YAHWEH!**
YAHWEH is revenging,
even as a husband of wrath!
YAHWEH is taking revenge on His foes!
And He maintains anger for the sake of His adversaries!

The concept of "a husband of wrath" is central to an understanding of this book. The term for husband is *ba'al*. It's most often translated as master' or 'lord'. But it also means husband or owner, possessor. Yisra'el is portrayed as "the bride" of YAHWEH in Scripture. As such, when Yisra'el committed adultery (unfaithfulness to YAHWEH) she became equivalent to an adulterous wife. Thus, to refer to YAHWEH as a husband of wrath, enraged by her adultery, is most fitting.

1:3 **YAHWEH** is slow to anger!
And He is great in power!
And He will not declare one innocent,
leaving the guilty unpunished!

YAHWEH, His way is in the whirlwind and in the storm,
and clouds are the dust of His feet.

1:4 In rebuking the sea then He dries it up!
Even all the rivers He causes to be desolate.
Bashan and Carmel languish,
and the blossom of Lebanon has failed.

1:5 Mountains have been shaken by Him
and the hills disintegrated.
And the earth is lifted up at His presence,
even the world and all who are dwelling on it!

1:6 Before the face of His indignation
who can stand?
And who can stand up
against the fierceness of His anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire!
Even the rocks have been broken apart by Him!

1:7 **YAHWEH** is good!
He is like a fortress in the day of distress!
And He knows those taking refuge in Him!

1:8 But with an overwhelming flood
He will make a complete end of the place of *Nineveh!*
And His adversaries He will pursue with darkness!

1:9 What will you plot against **YAHWEH?**
He will make a complete end of it!
Trouble will not rise up a second time!

1:10 Indeed, when they are entangled like thorns,
and as drunkards with their drink
they will be devoured like stubble thoroughly dried!

1:11 From you has come forth
one plotting what is bad against **YAHWEH**,
a counselor of worthlessness!

1:12 Thus said YAHWEH,
“Even if they are peaceful and likewise many,
even so, they will be cut off!
And they will pass away!

And *though* I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more!
1:13 And now I will break his yoke from upon you!
And I will tear off your shackles!”

1:14 And YAHWEH has directed concerning you,
“You will not bear seed by your name any longer.
From the house of your gods
I will cause to be cut off
the carved image and the molten image!
I will establish your grave
because you have been trifling!”

Chapter 2 starts here in The Hebrew text

1:15 (H 2.1) Behold upon the mountains
the feet of one bringing good news,
causing you to hear 'Shalom!'

Yahudah, observe your festivals,
your feasts of shalom, your vows!
Indeed, the worthless one
will not again be passing over among you any longer!
He has been completely cut off!

Chapter 2

2:1 (H 2.2) One who is scattering
has come up before your face.
Guard the fortress!
Keep watch on the road!
Strengthen the loins!
Build up your power vehemently!

2:2 (H 2.3) Indeed, YAHWEH has turned back
the arrogance *itself* **nn** of Ya'akob
like the arrogance of Yisra'el!

Indeed, those emptying have emptied them out!
And they have corrupted their vine branches!

2:3 (H 2.4) The shields of his mighty men
have been dyed red.
The men of valor are clothed in scarlet.
The chariots are like flaming torches
in the day of its preparation.
And the fir spears will be brandished.

2:4 (H 2.5) In the streets the chariots shine.
They rush about wildly in the broad places.
Their appearance is like flaming torches.
They move swiftly like lightning.

2:5 (H 2.6) He takes note of his powerful ones.
They falter as they walk.
They hurry to her wall.
But the defense is prepared.

2:6 (H 2.7) The gates of the rivers
have been opened
and the fortress has been disintegrated.

2:7 (H 2.8) And it has been established.
She will be exiled.
She will be caused to go up.
And her female servants are lamenting
like the sound of doves beating upon their breasts.

2:8 (H 2.9) And Nineveh was like a pool of water
from days *gone by*.
But they are fleeing.
'Stand still! Stand still!' *they cry*.
But no one is turning back.

2:9 (H 2.10) Plunder the silver!
Plunder the gold!
And there is no end to the copious stores
of all the desirable objects.

2:10 (H 2.11) Emptiness and void, even void!
And the heart has been melted!
And the knees have knocked together!
And anguish is in all the loins!
And the faces of all of them have collected blackness!

2:11 (H 2.12) Where is the dwelling place of the lion
and the feeding place for the sake of the young lions,
where the lion, the lioness, *and* the lion's cub walked there
and no one was disturbing them?

2:12 (H 2.13) The lion tore in pieces
with enough for his cubs.
And he strangled for the sake of his lionesses.
And he filled his caves with prey
and his dens with torn prey.

2:13 (H 2.14) "Behold! I am against you!"
- An Utterance of **YAHWEH** of Assemblies. -
"And I will burn your chariots into smoke!
And the sword will devour your young lions!
And I will cause your prey to be cut off from the earth!
And no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard!"

Chapter 3

3:1 Woe to the city of blood!
All of it is full of lying, robbery.
The prey is not removed.

3:2 The sound of a whip
and the sound of rumbling wheels,
and galloping horses,
and bouncing chariots!

3:3 Horsemen *are* going up,
and flashing sword,
and glittering spear,
and many wounded,
and numerous slain,
and a multitude of corpses!

And there is no end to the corpses!

They stumble on their corpses
3:4 on account of the many adulteries
of the favored pleasing prostitute,
the mistress of sorceries,
the one selling nations by her adulteries,
and families by her sorceries!

3:5 "Behold!

I am against you!"

- An Utterance of YAHWEH of Assemblies. -

"And I will expose your skirts over your faces!

And I will cause the nations to see your genitals
and the kingdoms your disgrace!

3:6 And I will hurl upon you detestable things!

And I will dishonor you!

And I will establish you as a spectacle!

3:7 And it will exist *that*

all who see you will turn away from you!

And they will say,

'Nineveh has been ravaged!

Who will mourn for the sake of her?

From where will I seek comforters for you?

3:8 Are you better than No Amon,

the one dwelling by The Nile River streams

with waters all around beside her,

whose rampart was the sea?

Her wall was beside the sea.

3:9 Kush was her strength and Mitsraim,

and it was unlimited.

Put and Lubim were your helpers.

3:10 Even she went into captivity!

Even her young children were dashed to pieces

at the head of every street!

And over her esteemed men lots were cast!

And all her mighty men were bound in chains!

3:11 You yourselves **nx**

will also be made drunk!

You will be hiding!

You yourselves **nx** will also seek refuge

from the adversary!

3:12 All your fortifications are fig trees

with first ripe figs!

If they are shaken

they will fall into the mouth of the one consuming!

3:13 Behold!

Your people are women in your midst!

The gates of your land

will be opened wide to your adversaries!

Fire will consume your gate bars!

3:14 Draw for yourself water of a siege!

Strengthen your fortifications!

Come with the clay!

And tread in the mortar!

Strengthen the brick kiln!

3:15 There a fire will devour you!

A sword will cut you off!

It will consume you like a locust.

Make yourself many like the locust!

Make yourself many like the swarming locusts!

3:16 You have multiplied your merchants

more than the stars of the skies!

The locust has stripped off.

And it has flown away!

3:17 Your court officials are like the locusts!
And your military leaders are like great grasshoppers,
those settling in hedges on a day of cold.
The sun rises they flee away.
And the place where they are is not known.

3:18 Your shepherds have slumbered,
king of Ashshur.
Your nobles have sat down to rest.
Your people have been scattered on the mountains
and no one is gathering them.

3:19 There is no healing for your injury.
Your wound is serious.
Everyone hearing the news concerning you
will clap their hands over you.
Indeed, over whom has your harm
not passed over continually?