A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR  
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR  
PROPHETS

*Dr. Gregg Marutzky*

Nahum: Justice of God

MAJOR  
STUDIES

FROM THE

minor prophets

*Dr. Gregg Marutzky*

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*Nahum*

*Justice of God*

# NAHUM: NINEVEH'S DOOM

## DECLARED

The Judge

Because of God's attributes  
God's wrath  
God's power  
God's goodness  
Conclusion

Because of Nineveh's sin

1:1-15

## DESCRIBED

The Judgment

The coming of Nineveh's enemies  
The attack on Nineveh's defenses  
The plundering of the city  
The destruction of Nineveh's "Lair"

2:1-13

## DESERVED

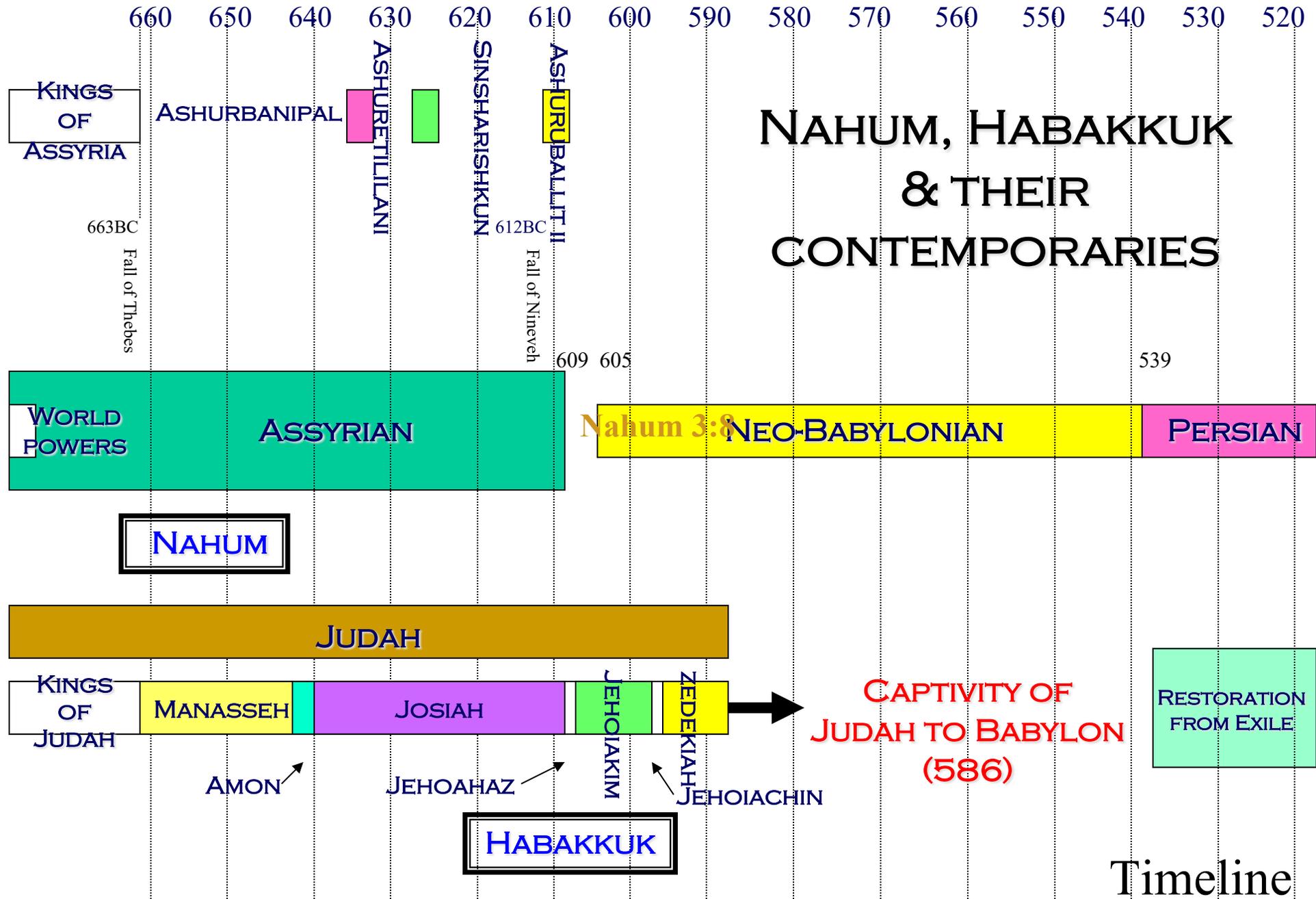
The Justification

Because of her brutal conquests  
The example of Thebes  
The inevitable destruction  
The response of the nations

3:1-19

# *Author & Background*

- ✦ Nahum was a prophet from Elkosh for Judah to the Assyrian capital of Nineveh around **660 BC**, 100 years after Jonah.
- ✦ Nahum's name means "**comfort or consolation.**"
- ✦ The book of Nahum is about **THEODICY**- the **justice or righteousness of God**. This book is about judgment. Judgment always includes equal weights of punishment and pardon, vengeance and grace, patience and power, anger and kindness.



# NAHUM, HABAKKUK & THEIR CONTEMPORARIES

**NAHUM**

**HABAKKUK**

**CAPTIVITY OF JUDAH TO BABYLON (586)**

Timeline

# *Ninevah Judged*

## The Book of Nahum

<b>Focus</b>	<b>“the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished” (1:3b)</b>					
<b>Divisions</b>	<b>God's Displeasure Proclaimed</b>		<b>Nineveh's Doom Predicted</b>		<b>Nineveh's Downfall Portrayed</b>	
	1	1	2	2	3	
<b>Topics</b>	<b>God's Worthiness</b>		<b>Man's Worthlessness &amp; Pride</b>			
	<b>God's Certain Judgment on Nineveh</b>		<b>First Description of Nineveh's judgment</b>		<b>Second Description of Nineveh's judgment</b>	
<b>Place</b>	<b>To Nineveh</b>					
<b>Time</b>	<b>612 B.C.</b>					
<b>Author</b>	<b>The Prophet Nahum</b>					

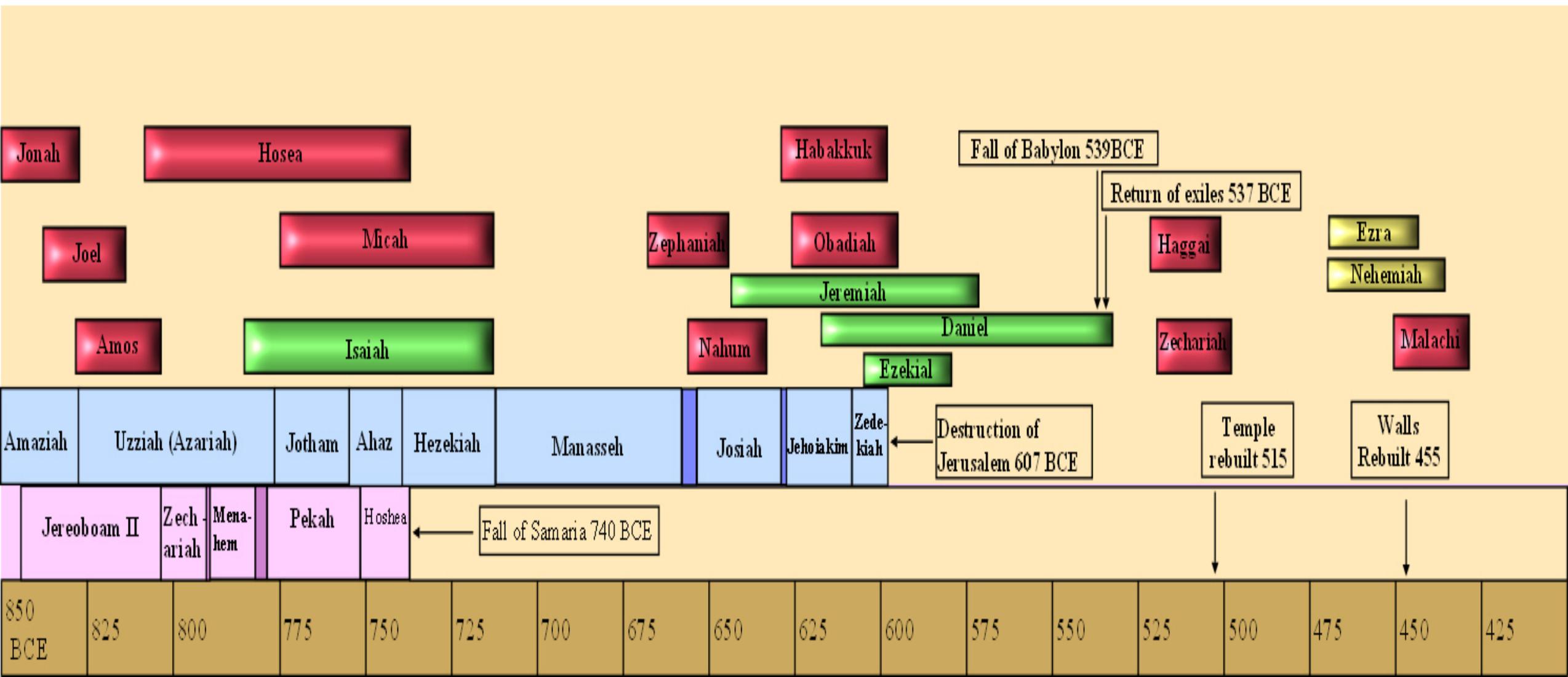
# *Author & Background*

✦ The dialectic of guilt and innocence are weighed upon the scale of justice and sent in one direction or the other by truth. **God is both vengeful and merciful** depending on rebellion or repentance. The scales of justice are tipped by truth.

✦ God had relented from punishing Ninevah due to their repentance from Jonah's preaching but now his patience has expired. God does not appreciate apostasy or mocking his mercy. **God is just!**

# Timeline of the minor prophets

- 12 Prophets
- Contemporary Prophets
- Other Contemporaries
- \*Kings who ruled more than two years
- Kings of Judah \*
- Kings of Israel \*



# Key Verses

**1:3** *"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished."*

**2:13** *"I am against you, declares the Lord Almighty. I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."* **3:19**

*"Nothing can heal your wound; your injury is fatal. Everyone who hears the news about you claps their hands at your fall, for who has not **felt your cruelty.**"*

# *Key Verses*

**Nahum 3:19** *“Nothing can heal your wound; your injury is fatal. Everyone who hears the news about you claps their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty.”*

# ***Nahum Outline***

- ✦ Nahum 1:1-15 Destruction Decided –  
**Consolation** – **Merciful** – God is Patient
- ✦ Nahum 2:1-13 Destruction Described –  
**Zealous** – **Faithful** – God is Powerful
- ✦ Nahum 3:1-15 Destruction Deserved –  
**Vengeance** – **Justice** – God is Pure

# ***Nahum Outline***

✦ Nahum 1:1-15 DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH  
DECREED

✦ Nahum 2:1-13 DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH  
DESCRIBED

✦ Nahum 3:1-15 DESTRUCTION OF NINEVEH  
DESERVED

<b>Jonah</b>	<b>Nahum</b>
The Mercy of God	The Judgment of God
760 BC	660 BC
Repentance of Nineveh	Callous Cruelty of Nineveh
Emphasis on the Prophet	Emphasis on the Prophecy
Disobedient Prophet	Obedient Prophet
Obedient Nineveh	Disobedient Nineveh
Deliverance from Water	Destruction by Water

## *Oracle #1 – Punishment, Judgment*

**Nahum 1:1** Oracle/Sermon to Nineveh from the prophet Nahum for Elkosh outside of Jerusalem. Elkosh was on the northern border of Israel so it would have been one of the first towns invaded by the Assyrians. Nahum probably had relatives that had suffered for generations at the hands of the invading marauders from Assyria.

THE BOOK OF  
**NAHUM**

A STUDY OF GOD'S JUSTICE



## *Oracle – Destruction Decided*

Nahum 1:2 *“The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies.”* God is righteous, merciful and faithful. Therefore, he can be both punishing/just and pardoning/gracious. Since God is pure, he must exercise justice, fairness, and judgment. Judgment includes both vengeance/punishment and kindness/pardon. God’s faithful/promises/truth are the scales of justice *and our guilt or innocence tip the scales one direction or other.*

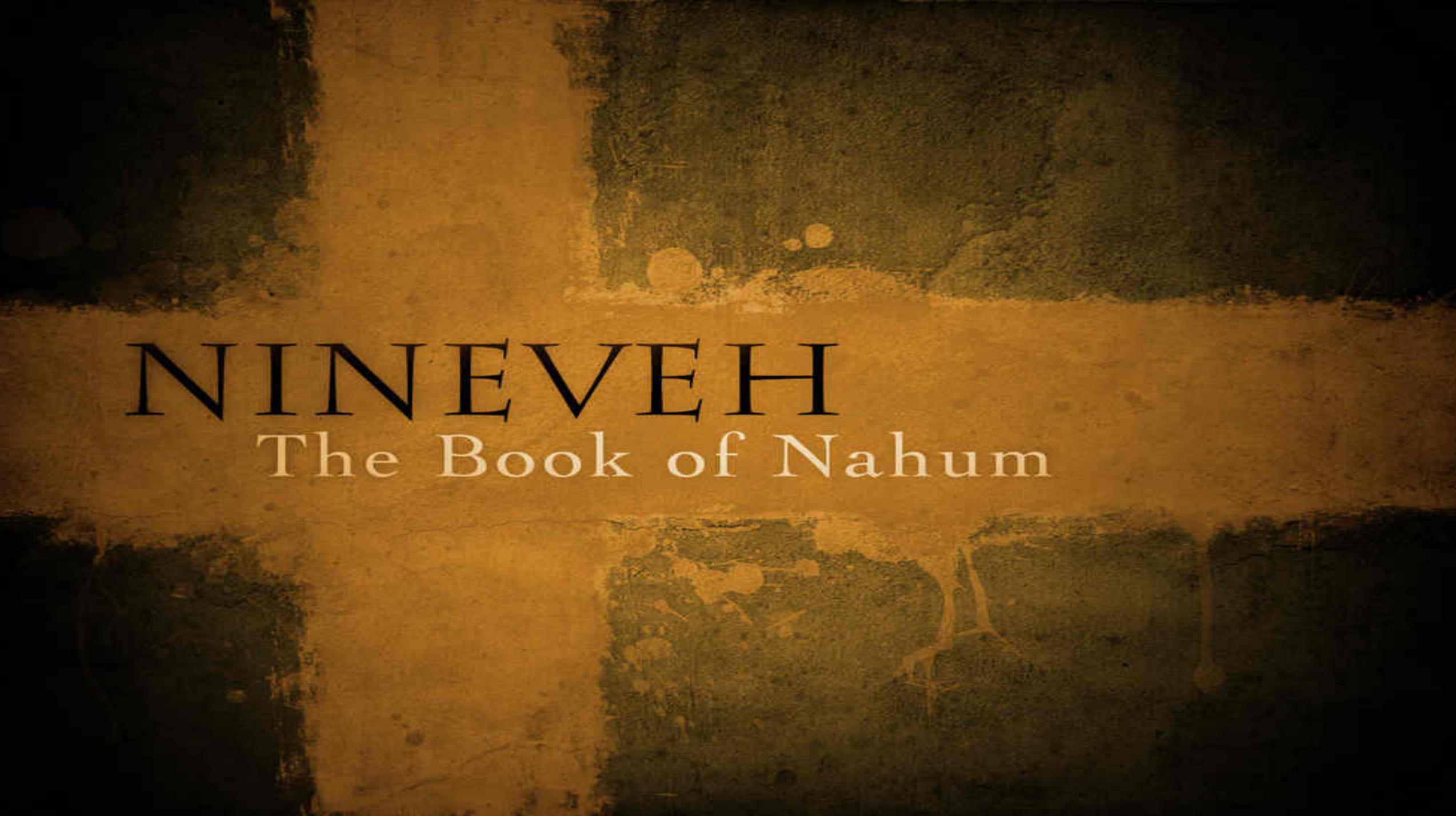


# *God is Patient*

**Nahum 1:3** *"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet."* God is **patient** (*slow to anger*) in his judgment to allow repentance. God's patience is a display of his kindness and mercy. Nineveh and more than 100 years to repent. God is not quick to punish due to his faithfulness and mercy. God is passionate about justice and righteousness. God's heart burns for what is holy, just, fair, and honest. His wrath is incurred against those who continue to reject his voice and authority.

## *God is Patient*

Nahum 1:6 *“Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.”* God is passionate about justice & righteousness. Being jealous & zealous are both passions driven by conviction and indignation. God’s heart burns for what is **holy, just, and fair.**



NINEVEH  
The Book of Nahum

# *Flood of Ninevah*

**Nahum 1:7** *"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness."* God does not allow evil to prevail but opposes wickedness. **God is Good!** We must never forget that God is good, holy, pure, fair and faithful. We can count on his promises and hold to his word as truth always. The measuring scales will always be true in our relationship with God. His wrath is incurred against those who continue to reject his voice and authority.

# *Justice*

**Nahum 1:12** *“This is what the Lord says, Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be cut off and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, O Judah, I will afflict you no more. Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.”* Nahum comforts and console Judah with the good news that the justice of God is revealed against Nineveh. God’s people will no longer have to fear their enemies.



# Good News

**Nahum 1:15** *“Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.”* We can claim the faithfulness of God to bring about justice. It may seem like the righteous suffer unfairly at the hands of the wicked, but vengeance is mine says the Lord. This is an echo scripture of **Isaiah 52:7** and **Romans 10:15** referencing those who bring good news. Justice is always good news to the faithful and frightening to the wicked.

# Prophecy

Nahum 2:6 *"The river gates are thrown open and the palace collapses."* The city of Nineveh was considered impregnable with walls 100 feet high and wide enough to accommodate three chariots. Dotted around the walls were huge towers an additional 100 feet above the tops of the walls. Surrounded by a moat 150 feet wide and 60 feet deep. The Tigris River overflowed its banks and the flood destroyed part of Nineveh's wall. The Babylonians invaded through this breach in the wall, plundered the city, and set it on fire. Nineveh was destroyed in 612BC and the site was not uncovered until 1842. Nahum's prophecy came true. (3:11)



# *Detailed Prophecy*

Nahum's prophetic details regarding the destruction of Nineveh was very specific including the following: Nineveh destroyed by flood (1:8, 2:6) and fire (1:10, 2:13, 3:13-15); Destroying of Nineveh's idols (1:14); the city not to be rebuilt (1:14, 2:11-13); leaders would flee (2:9, 3:17); and destruction of the gates (3:13). (Vs. 8) *"Nineveh is like a pool and its water is draining away."* Water destroyed Nineveh.

# Judgment

**Nahum 2:10** *“She (Nineveh) is pillaged, plundered, and stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale.”*

**Nahum 2:13** *“I am against you, declares the Lord Almighty. I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”* God promises to be with the **righteous** but against the **rebellious!**

# *Consequences*

**Nahum 3:1** *“Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!”* Nahum describes the reasons for God’s judgment on Nineveh in chapter three. What goes around comes back around. The measure you use to judge will be measured to you! As the Assyrians had destroyed Egypt so would God destroy Nineveh. The city was destroyed while the soldiers were having an orgy. Nahum’s prophecy was set as God had made his final judgment on Nineveh. *God is patient but his vengeance is unleashed when rebellion continues, and we repent of our repentance. The warning is to not go back on your vows to God.*

# *Consequences*

**Nahum 3:5** *"I am against you! Declares the Lord Almighty. I will lift up your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame. I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle."* The consequence of Nineveh's sin was significant. God brought shame upon the country for the pillaging of the countries Assyria had conquered.

# Vengeance

**Nahum 3:8** *“Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile with water around her? The river was her defense and the waters her wall.”* As the Assyrians had destroyed Egypt so would God destroy Nineveh.

**Nahum 3:13** *“Look at your troops- they are all women!”* The city was destroyed while the soldiers were having an orgy. **Nahum 3:19** *“Nothing can heal your wound; your injury is fatal. Everyone who hears the news about you, claps their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty.”* God is patient but his vengeance is unleashed when rebellion continues. The warning is to not go back on your vows to God.

# *Theodicy Lessons*

1. **God is *patient and long-suffering* with us.**
2. **God *judges the nations* more slowly than people.**
3. **God judges everyone *according to righteousness*.**
4. **God intervenes to judge nations with *mighty acts*.**
5. **God expects *fairness and justice* in all relationships.**
6. **God judges according to *how we treat others*.**
7. **God is *slow to judge* but also *mighty in vengeance*.**

# NAHUM

A Prophetic Book

