

A Study of Nahum

Outline (taken from *The Believer's Bible Commentary*).

- I The character of God, the Judge (1:1-8)
- II The certainty of the doom of Nineveh (1:9-15)
- III The description of the siege of Nineveh (2:1-12)
- IV God's determination to destroy the city (2:13–3:19)

Nahum 1 (God Is Jealous: Nineveh Will Fall)

¹ The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

- 1 The word "burden" (*massa*) is never placed in a title except when the vision is heavy and full of burden and toil. Here, the prophecy of Nahum is very stern and awful. Nineveh, after having "repented at the preaching of Jonah," fell back into their sins and added the uprooting of God's chosen people. Jonah's message had been a call to repentance. Nahum, which means full of exceeding comfort, is sent to pronounce on Nineveh its doom. That its day of grace would soon be over.
- 2 "The book of the vision of Nahum" probably expresses that it was not (like some books) delivered in segments and then written, but was delivered as one whole.

² God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. ³ The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. ⁴ He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. ⁵ The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

- 1 The word "jealous" when applied to God does not suggest envy or selfishness. It carries the idea of being zealous for His glory and for His holiness. He burns with hatred against sin even though He loves the sinner. Just as a husband is jealous over his wife and therefore protects her, God is jealous over His people and His law. He therefore must act in holiness and justice. He is slow to anger. In fact, He had given Nineveh 150 years of mercy, but they had gone too far in their brutality and violence. God had to judge them.
- 2 The phrase "slow to anger" could be translated as "longsuffering". It is a Hebrew idiom that is literally translated as "long of nose". The idea being that God "sniffs" everything all the way out before He acts and exacts vengeance.
- 3 Nahum's description of God's power is that when He walks, He creates tornadoes and the dust His feet stir up look like the clouds in the sky. He further describes His anger as so severe that if He were to speak that way to the earth, all wet places would dry up. Earthquakes would be so strong that the mountains would crumble and everything else would be scorched.

⁶ Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. ⁷ The LORD *is* good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. ⁸ But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

- 1 Nations today seem to forget the power of Almighty God. They act as though there is no God. But you can be sure that the day of judgment will come, and in that day no nation will be able to escape.
- 2 To people who refuse to believe, God's punishment is like the angry liquid fire poured out of volcanoes in all directions. To those who love Him, His mercy is a refuge, supplying all their needs without diminishing His supply. To God's enemies He is an overwhelming flood that will sweep them away. The relationship we have with God is up to us. What kind of relationship are you choosing?

⁹ What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. ¹⁰ For while they be folden together as thorns, and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

A Study of Nahum

- 1 These words are addressed to the Assyrians. God will NOT allow them to remove the nation of Judah from their promised possession because they are right with their God (Hezekiah is king). They had hauled the wicked nation of Israel (the 10 northern tribes) into a captivity from which they have never returned. They have no “right” to pursue and vex the nation of Judah. God is not behind this so now, God is about to destroy the Assyrians. The one who plotted evil against the LORD would fall.
- 2 God says that “affliction shall not rise up the second time”. It will be so broken that it cannot rise up any more to vex them. Like when a serpent’s head is not just “wounded” but crushed and trampled underfoot, so that it cannot ever lift itself up. The promises of God are conditioned by our not “falling back” into sin. He said to Nineveh, “God will not deliver Judah to thee, as He delivered the ten tribes and Samaria.” Judah repented under Hezekiah, and He not only delivered them from Sennacherib, but never afflicted them again through Assyria. Renewal of sin brings renewal or deepening of punishment. The new and more grievous sins under Manasseh were punished, not through Assyria but through the Chaldeans.
- 3 These words have passed into a Jewish maxim, “God will not punish the same thing twice”. Meaning “not in this world and in eternity - not if repented of”.
- 4 Chastisement is a token of God’s mercy. The absence of God’s chastisement while there is a proliferation of sin indicates that God is sending “them” to perdition (they will be destroyed). Hebrews 12:8 says that a Father corrects his own “child” and that those that are not “corrected” are “fatherless” - abandoned or disowned by their father and have no hope or future.

¹¹ There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor. ¹² Thus saith the LORD; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. ¹³ For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder. ¹⁴ And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile. ¹⁵ Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

- 1 Some Bible scholars think that this “wicked counsellor” probably refers to Sennacherib (his invasion against Israel during the reign of King Hezekiah when one Angel destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers - 2nd Kings 19 and 2nd Chronicles 32). This is probably true, since it fits the timeline of God’s dealings with the nations of Judah and Israel. In fact, the death of the 185,000 soldiers probably occurred about half-way through King Hezekiah’s reign. This means that Nineveh would have been destroyed before wicked King Manasseh was born and would also explain why it was the world powers of Babylon and Persia that, years later, carried Judah away into captivity.
- 2 Even though “many be quiet” (most of the Assyrians did not hate nor attack Israel), their leader did and because of that, God destroyed the entire nation (not just Nineveh). Just like God brings revival through the Godly leadership of a nation, He also brings destruction when a nation’s leaders not only promote sin and rebellion against God, but begin to lash out against God’s chosen people (the Jews). Yes, God has raised nations to punish the Jews for their disobedience and unbelief. However when a nation proceeds to go “beyond” what God designed, they not only imperil, but ultimately cause the end of their own existence.
- 3 The approximate date of this book is around 700 B.C. King Solomon had dedicated the Temple 300 years earlier (1000 B.C.). They had fled Egypt around 800 years earlier (2513 B.C.) The 10 northern tribes (Israel) have been gone from their land for about 30 years. They had been in idolatry since their first King (Jeroboam) for about 260 years.
- 4 The lesson is clear... God will NOT allow any nation to destroy His chosen IF they are “right” with Him. Today, the nation of Israel does serve God. They do not accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah because they do NOT believe that He is the Son of God. They are NOT a believing, Christian nation. However, they do nationally serve God. For this reason, God is protecting them. ANY nation that tries to remove Israel from their land (now) will be destroyed as surely as God destroyed the Assyrian Empire.
- 5 Although this book is not about “Christianity”, we can draw inferences from it. God protects His chosen when they (we) are right with Him. Are you right with Him? If so, then God can (and will) protect you as surely as He protected the nation of Judah during this time. Does that mean that we will not suffer? No. It means that we will not be destroyed!
- 6 God will protect the Nation of Israel if they continue to worship Him, even though they are un-redeemed.

A Study of Nahum

Nahum 2 (God Is Judge: Nineveh's Fall Is Great)

¹ He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily. ² For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

- 1 From the description of the peace of Judah in chapter 1, the prophet turns to her oppressor and directs the rest of the prophecy.
- 2 This first verse deals with the siege of Nineveh by the Babylonians. "He that dasheth" (literally, "He who scatters" should be interpreted as referring to how the Lord will use the Babylonians. The frenzied inhabitants of the city are mockingly told to prepare for battle with four commands: "Man the fort!" "Watch the road!" "Strengthen your flanks!" and "Fortify your power mightily."
- 3 God, whom they had defied, by saying Hezekiah could not "turn away the face of one captain of the least of his servants" (Isaiah 36:9), now invites them prepare to meet those that He would send against them.
- 4 The strength of the words is the measure of the irony. They had challenged God; He in turn challenges them to put forth all their might.
- 5 Verse 2 reminds us of Sennacherib's first devastation of Judah (after Israel's destruction). God is referring to the fact that Judah has been humbled by Sennacherib (Nineveh / Assyria) and after that first attack (which put Judah under tribute to Assyria) Judah returned to worship God as a nation. The Complete Jewish Bible offers a vivid interpretation "For Adonai is restoring the pride of Ya`akov, along with the pride of Isra'el; because plunderers have plundered them and ravaged their vines." Clearly, Judah had been humbled, repented, returned to true worship of God and now God was restoring their national strength (pride, not a sinful pride but a national pride in God Almighty).

³ The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken. ⁴ The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

- 1 The shield of his mighty men would be referring to the Ninevite soldiers. God is describing what He is going to do to Nineveh because they have dared to take away from the Nation of Judah what He alone has given to them (their land).
- 2 The slaughter of Nineveh will be so great that their blood and the blood of their citizens will bathe their own shields. The Ninevite Army will be so anxious and horrified that even the trees will tremble at their racing from place to place in an attempt to protect their city.
- 3 The massacre of Ninevites will be so horrendous that the chariots will jostle each other in the confused fight, driving over and through everything, like lightning running along the ground.

⁵ He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared. ⁶ The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved. ⁷ And Huzzab shall be led away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering upon their breasts.

- 1 Even though the Ninevite King recounted their many victories, it was no encouragement to his soldiers. In the end, all efforts to get to the wall and defend the city was of no avail.
- 2 Secular history records the use of a new siege weapon. Near the end of the siege, Babylon brought covered battering rams to the city. They shielded the Babylonian soldiers from attacks over the wall while the battering ram penetrated the thick walls that surrounded Nineveh.
- 3 After a three year siege, Nineveh falls. The gates and rivers are opened for all the invaders and the palace is over-run by Babylonian forces. Years later, it will be the descendants of these soldiers that will besiege Jerusalem, destroy the Temple and carry Daniel, his three friends and a multitude of Jews to Babylon where they serve their 70 year exile.



A Study of Nahum

- 4 There was an Assyrian prophecy (not in the Bible, but in secular history) that Nineveh should not be taken until the security of the river was lost. It happened in the third year of the siege that a portion of the wall that held the gates on the Euphrates was broken through. The king (believing that the oracle was accomplished) built a large funeral pyre in the palace. He collected all his gold, silver, royal vestments, his concubines and eunuchs and placed everything in a little apartment built inside the pyre; burnt them, himself, and the palace together. The death of the king was announced as the Babylonians invaded the city. Thus the prophecy of Nahum was literally fulfilled: "the gates of the river were opened, and the palace dissolved" (burnt). Huzzab (his queen) had not been burnt alive with everything else in the palace so she was led away captive with her maids. We should be reminded that EVERY WORD OF GOD WILL COME TO PASS.

⁸ But Nineveh is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back. ⁹ Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture.

- 1 The translation in The Complete Jewish Bible is easier to understand. "Ninveh is like a pool whose water ebbs away. "Stop! Stop!" But none of it goes back."
- 2 As Nineveh is over-run by their Babylonian enemies, all commands to "Halt, halt" (stand, stand) are ignored. The Ninevites leave everything as they flee their city.
- 3 All the riches of the capital city are plundered by the Babylonians - gold, silver, incredible furniture.

¹⁰ She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

- 1 So complete is Nineveh's destruction that almost the same word is used three times (empty, void, waste). Each word not only includes the prior, but intensifies the completeness of her destruction. Nineveh is empty, not just empty but void. Not just void, but completely wasted.
- 2 Knees smiting together, pain in the loins and black faces all denote the devastating famine that they have lived through. These Ninevites suffered terribly, not because God is unkind, but because they had been unkind (to Judah). God was exacting revenge. (Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.)

¹¹ Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid? ¹² The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin.

- 1 These verses will be much better appreciated when we recall that as Great Britain has the lion, and the United States has the eagle as its emblem, the Assyrians were simply mad about lions. Men's heads with lion's bodies (or men's bodies with lion's heads) appear regularly in Assyrian art and sculpture. No doubt they thought of themselves as lions and tried to act the part.
- 2 Comparing Nineveh to a lion's den, Nahum pushes his ironical knife in deeply to wound Ninevite arrogance by using the words lions, young lions, lioness, lion's cub - seven times in two verses!
- 3 The statements applied to the lions are grouped together according to the difference of sex and age. The full-grown male lion; the lioness; the young lion old enough to hunt prey; and the lion's whelp which cannot hunt alone. The city of lions was not only a resting-place but also afforded a comfortable living. Where is the city now, into which the Assyrians swept together the spoils of the peoples and kingdoms which they had destroyed?
- 4 The lion, as king of the beasts, is a very fitting emblem of the kings or rulers of Assyria. The lionesses and young lions are the citizens of Nineveh and of the province of Assyria. The "hunter" has become the "hunted" and has been hunted into extinction. Nineveh will no longer exist!



A Study of Nahum

¹³ Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

- 1 Behold, I am against thee - Assyria, and Nineveh its capital. I will deal with you as you have dealt with others.
- 2 The LORD of hosts has decreed Nineveh's utter destruction. Since the Lord has made Himself her enemy, the city does not stand a chance. Her chariots will be burned and her young lions (warriors) will be cut off by the sword. The sound of her armies would be heard no more and she would have no more victims.

Nahum 3 (God Is Just: Nineveh Deserves to Fall)

- Nahum deals with the justice of God's destruction of Nineveh. Some might say, "But God used Assyria to punish the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Why punish Nineveh when once He used her as His own tool?" Or they might argue, "Look at the kingdom of Judah. She is full of sin too. Why not punish her?" Well, God would punish Judah in a few years; He would permit the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem and take the people captive. But His purpose for Judah would be different from His purpose for Nineveh. God would chasten Judah in love to teach her a lesson; He would judge Assyria in anger to destroy her for her sins.
- In God's Word, we should always pay attention to the differences between how God treats His chosen (Israel, The Church, Jesus, Saints, etc.) and how He treats the unregenerate. The former, He lays judgment upon to bring about reconciliation. The unregenerate, He lays judgment upon to destroy.

¹ Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not; ² The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots. ³ The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses: ⁴ Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

- 1 Chapter 3 continues the picture of the fall of Nineveh and gives the underlying reasons: it is a bloody city and full of lies and robbery, having seized spoils from many other countries. Now the Babylonian horsemen are attacking with bright sword, and the streets are full of countless corpses.
- 2 In verse 1 we see the great sins of Assyria listed: murders, lies, and covetousness. The Assyrians had murdered thousands of innocent people; now their own people would be slain and their bodies stacked in the streets like lumber. Nineveh had carried on a profitable commerce with the other nations and had grown rich through lies and violence. Now all their wealth would vanish in the hands of the looters. This is the justice of God.
- 3 The nation is being judged for her harlotries and sorceries, corrupting others with her idolatry and commerce.

⁵ Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame. ⁶ And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock. ⁷ And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

- 1 Jehovah will expose her sinfulness and publicly cover her with shame, the punishment befitting a seductive harlot.
- 2 She has been the occasion of ruin to multitudes, and now she is deservedly exposed and punished. Therefore, who would be willing to "bemoan" (weep over) anything concerning Nineveh.

⁸ Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea? ⁹ Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers. ¹⁰ Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top

A Study of Nahum

of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

- 1 She will not escape any more than No (No-Amon, modern Thebes) did, that great city which symbolized the concentrated might of Ethiopia and Egypt.
- 2 As allies or helpers, Thebes also counted on Put and Lubim for security. These are territories generally associated with Libya, but we cannot be dogmatic.
- 3 Great men were bound in chains - these were reserved to grace the triumph of the victor.

¹¹ Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy. ¹² All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater. ¹³ Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

- 1 Nineveh, also, would be drunk with the cup of God's wrath. Like ripened figs, it was ready for judgment. Its defenses would fail when the gates of their land would swing wide open for their enemies.
- 2 In the day of judgment, the Assyrian soldiers (usually so brave) would act like frightened women. Every means of fortification would fail.

¹⁴ Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brickkiln. ¹⁵ There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

- 1 In spite of Nineveh's most elaborate preparations for the siege - acquiring extra water and fortifying its strongholds with new clay bricks where needed - it would fall.
- 2 God tells the Ninevites to make themselves as numerous as cankerworms (crop eating worms) and locusts (crop eating grasshoppers) in preparation for what He is about to do.

¹⁶ Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away. ¹⁷ Thy crowned are as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are. ¹⁸ Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

- 1 Though the merchants, commanders, and generals were as numerous as the stars of heaven, yet they would desert the city like swarming locusts flying off at sunrise.
- 2 Nahum compares the battle to a plague of locusts. Just as the worms eat up the crops, so the enemy would eat up the city. The Assyrian soldiers would be as strong as grasshoppers. Then Nahum sees the Assyrians as a slaughtered flock of sheep, their shepherds (rulers) sleeping in death.
- 3 The shepherds (leaders) of Assyria now slumber in death. The nation has suffered a mortal wound.

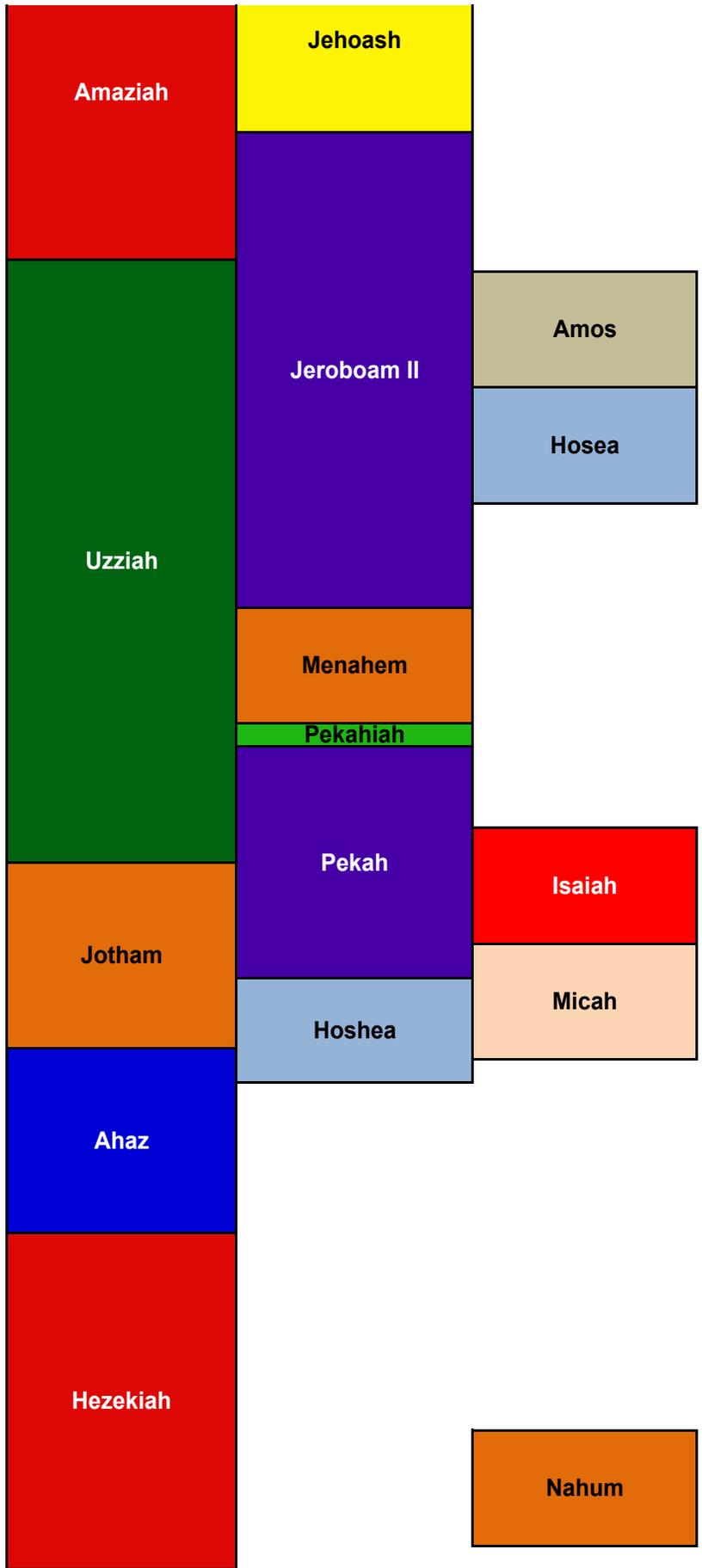
¹⁹ There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

- 1 The word "bruit" (used here) means "news, report." When the nations got the report of the destruction of Assyria, they clapped their hands and shouted for joy. The Lord judges the sins of nations and the sins of individuals. It is tragic to reject His warnings and persist in sin. "Be sure your sins will find you out."
- 2 News of Nineveh's fall will cause great rejoicing because many have suffered at its hands.
- 3 So thoroughly was Nahum's prophecy fulfilled that, in later times, armies (such as Alexander the Great's) were totally unaware that they were marching near or over the ruins of the once, great Nineveh.
- 4 Not until the nineteenth century was the ancient site of Nineveh even definitely relocated.

A Study of Nahum

3178	823	31
3179	822	32
3180	821	33
3181	820	34
3182	819	Sabbath Year
3183	818	36
3184	817	37
3185	816	38
3186	815	39
3187	814	40
3188	813	41
3189	812	Sabbath Year
3190	811	43
3191	810	44
3192	809	45
3193	808	46
3194	807	47
3195	806	48
3196	805	Sabbath Year
3197	804	13th Jubilee Celebrated
3198	803	2
3199	802	3
3200	801	4
3201	800	5
3202	799	6
3203	798	Sabbath Year
3204	797	8
3205	796	9
3206	795	10
3207	794	11
3208	793	12
3209	792	13
3210	791	Sabbath Year
3211	790	15
3212	789	16
3213	788	17
3214	787	18
3215	786	19
3216	785	20
3217	784	Sabbath Year
3218	783	22
3219	782	23
3220	781	24
3221	780	25
3222	779	26
3223	778	27
3224	777	Sabbath Year
3225	776	29
3226	775	30
3227	774	31
3228	773	32
3229	772	33
3230	771	34
3231	770	Sabbath Year
3232	769	36
3233	768	37
3234	767	38
3235	766	39
3236	765	40
3237	764	41
3238	763	Sabbath Year
3239	762	43
3240	761	44
3241	760	45
3242	759	46
3243	758	47
3244	757	48
3245	756	Sabbath Year
3246	755	14th Jubilee Celebrated
3247	754	2
3248	753	3
3249	752	4
3250	751	5
3251	750	6
3252	749	Sabbath Year
3253	748	8
3254	747	9
3255	746	10
3256	745	11
3257	744	12
3258	743	13
3259	742	Sabbath Year
3260	741	15
3261	740	16
3262	739	17
3263	738	18
3264	737	19
3265	736	20
3266	735	Sabbath Year
3267	734	22
3268	733	23
3269	732	24
3270	731	25
3271	730	26
3272	729	27
3273	728	Sabbath Year
3274	727	29
3275	726	30
3276	725	31
3277	724	32
3278	723	33
3279	722	34
3280	721	Sabbath Year
3281	720	36
3282	719	37
3283	718	38
3284	717	39
3285	716	40
3286	715	41
3287	714	Sabbath Year
3288	713	43
3289	712	44
3290	711	45
3291	710	46
3292	709	47
3293	708	48
3294	707	2 Kings 18:9
3295	706	15th Jubilee Celebrated
3296	705	2
3297	704	3
3298	703	4
3299	702	5
3300	701	6
3301	700	Sabbath Year
3302	699	8
3303	698	9
3304	697	10
3305	696	11
3306	695	12
3307	694	13
3308	693	Sabbath Year
3309	692	15
3310	691	16
3311	690	17
3312	689	18

3200



Note: Historians do not always agree on exact dates. This chart is designed to show the approximate relationships of the kings and prophets to each other.