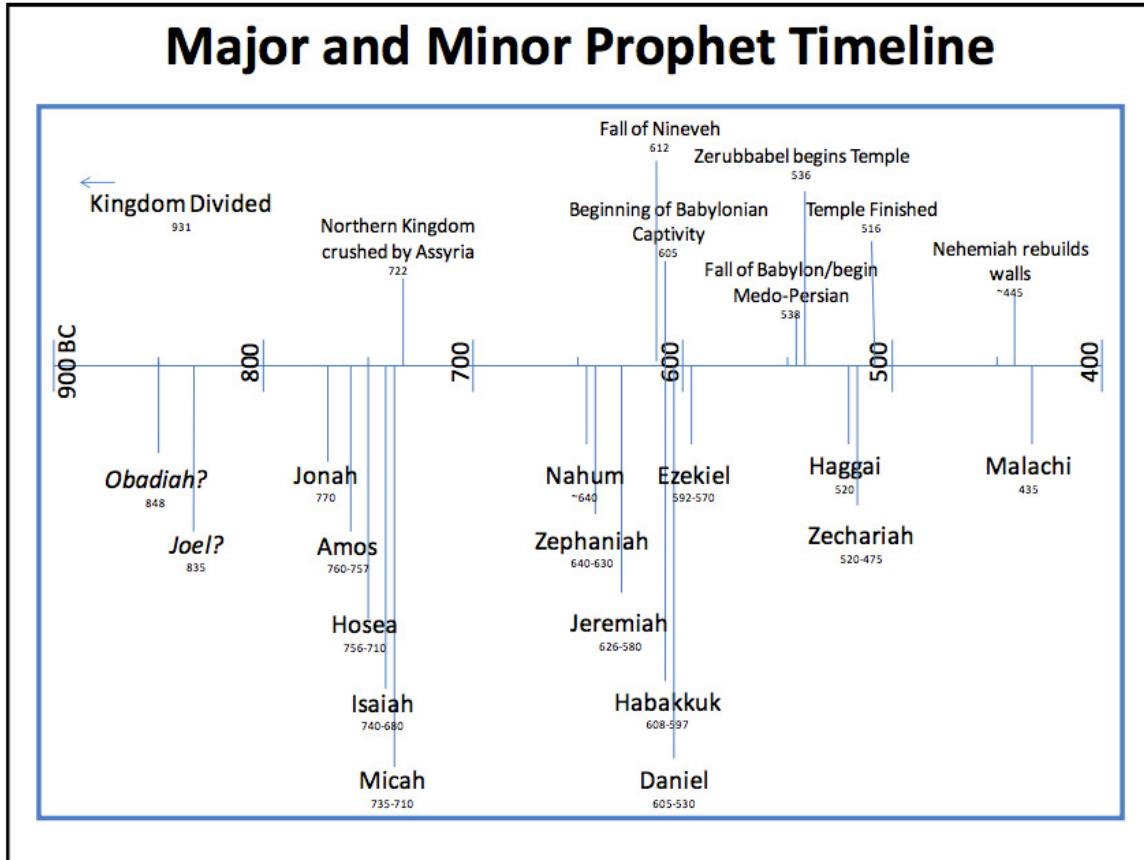


The Book of NAHUM

Righteous Revenge

A Chart listing when all the minor and major prophets preached



I. Introduction

- A. To a Jew, the book of Nahum was a wonderful book with "good tidings" about the coming destruction of their worst enemy again; the Ninevites!
- B. To the Ninevite, this book was to become a burden upon them for all the affliction that they had imposed upon Israel and Judah.
- C. To the Christian, Nahum's prophecy should be an encouraging book about the soon destruction of *our* worst enemy, for God is not just sitting idly by as the Tempter destroys Christians left and right, but is working out His plan "according to the Book."

II. Introduction to the Book of Nahum

- A. Author: Nahum under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Date of writing: c. 740 B.C. (Contemporary of Isaiah)
- C. Theme: The coming destruction upon the kingdom of Nineveh
- D. The significance of the name 'Nahum': Means "consolation" and comfort
- E. Nahum is an Elkoshite (1:1). He seems to be from the city later called Capernaum (which literally means "the village of _____") at the Sea of Galilee.
- F. Nahum's audience: The people of the city of Nineveh (1:1), as well as Judah
- G. Nahum has only three chapters

III. Purpose of Writing:

- A. Nahum did not write this book as a warning or "call to repentance" for the people of Nineveh. God had already sent them the prophet Jonah 100 years earlier with His promise of what would happen if they continued in their evil ways.

Study In The Minor Prophets

The Book of NAHUM

- B. The people at that time had repented, but this current generation now lived just as bad if not worse than they did before. The Assyrians had become absolutely brutal in their conquests (hanging the bodies of their victims on poles and putting their skin on the walls of their tents among other atrocities).
- C. Now Nahum was telling the people of Judah to not despair because God had pronounced judgment and the Assyrians would soon be getting just what they deserved.

IV. Lesson - "Nahum: Righteous Revenge"

A. The _____ of Nineveh (Nahum 1:1)

- 1. This prophecy becomes a "burden" for Nineveh
- 2. It is a vision of hope for Nahum of the future:
 - a. The soon coming defeat of Assyria by Babylon
 - b. Distant coming defeat of the world by Jesus Christ at 2nd Advent

B. The Balanced Character of God (1:2-8)

- 1. The Jealousy/Vengeance of God (1:2)
- 2. The Longsuffering of God (1:3)
- 3. The Justice of God (1:3)
- 4. The Omnipotence of God (1:3b-5)
- 5. The Holiness of God (1:6)
- 6. The Goodness of God (1:7) toward Judah in the "day of trouble"

APPLICATIONS:

- a. Historically, this Book applies to when Babylon destroys Nineveh
 - b. Doctrinally, it applies to the day of "Jacob's Trouble"
 - c. Spiritually, applies to any "rough" day (Ps 50:15)
7. The Effectiveness of God (1:8) - He always will "get you"!

C. The Belief of Nineveh (1:9-11)

- 1. That it was _____ (1:9) – that is the belief of EVERY successful person, and empire!
- 2. That the LORD Jehovah was not anyone to be worried about

NOTE: This was only 130 years after the preaching of Jonah where the entire city believed that God was someone to be _____ (see Jonah 3:5-9)

- 3. Take note of "the wicked counsellor" in vs 11. Compare with Isaiah 9:6. Satan always has his counterfeits.

D. The Breaking of the Yoke of Nineveh Off of Judah (1:12-15)

- 1. Comforting words to Judah as captives about the coming destruction of the Ninevites by Babylon (1:12)
- 2. Cutting words to the Ninevites (1:13,14)
- 3. Forthcoming words about the millennial kingdom (1:15)

APPLICATIONS:

- a. Historically, applies to those who proclaim Nahum's message concerning Nineveh
- b. Doctrinally, applies to the coming Prince of Peace
- c. Spiritually, applies to the Gospel (Rom 10:15) that makes anyone in bondage, free!

E. The Coming Battle Against Nineveh (2:1-13)

- 1. Make yourself ready for war, because here comes Nebuchadnezzar, the hammer! (2:1)
- 2. There is no further need for you Nineveh, because God has completed His work upon Judah *through you* (2:2).

- a. God USED Pharaoh, and because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, when God was finished, He destroyed Pharaoh.
 - b. God used the Assyrians to humble Judah
 - c. Be careful that the Lord doesn't use you and then have to destroy you!
3. Nebuchadnezzar's warriors are (will be) the best (2:3-5)
 - a. They have been in constant hand-to-hand combat, and won!
 - b. Their chariots are going to burn, but not burn up (2:3) – could this internal combustion, or an incandescent light?
 - c. Their chariots, when on the ground, are going to "run like the _____" (2:4) – quite fast!
 - d. These chariots can't wait to get to Nineveh, to fight with, and destroy it (2:5)
 4. The city of Nineveh will just dissolve away (2:6)
 5. Huzzab probably was the _____ of Nineveh (2:7)
 6. Everyone will flee the city (2:8)
 7. Nineveh becomes like a homeless lion, no longer king of the jungle, and no longer with any influence (2:9-13).

F. The Blame for Nineveh's Doom (3:1-4)

1. The fact that it is a bloody city (Cf Rev 17) Murdering God's people, as Rome did and does still to this day!
2. Deceit - It really was no better than any other city
3. Continual warring (3:2,3; Cf James 4:1-4 for how God has to judge Christians for the same thing)
4. Religious harlotry (3:4)
 - a. _____.
 - b. The selling of nations and families in the name of "religion" (Cf the dark ages, Hitler, etc)

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5. A shameful burial - No going down in "glory" (3:5-7)
 6. A repetitive burial (3:8-14):
 - a. "Those who never learn the lessons of history are destined to repeat them."
 - b. "The only thing that men learn from history is that men never learn from history."
 - 1) Israel conquers Canaanites
 - 2) Assyrians conquered Israel (as they did "No")
 - 3) Babylonians will conquer Assyria
 - 4) Medes and Persians will conquer Babylonians
 - 5) Alexander the Great will conquer Medes and Persians
 - 6) Rome conquers Greece
 - 7) Finally, the "stone" cut out of a mountain made with out hands comes and stops the entire process and sets up His kingdom, the millennium.
 7. There is no hope for you now Nineveh - this is God's Righteous Revenge (3:15-19)
 - a. There will be no "getting right", for it is too late now (3:19). There is a limit to God's grace and longsuffering to usward!
 - b. PRINCIPLE: There comes a time when you have had all the chances that God is going to give you to get right. After that, God's judgement MUST fall.
 - 1) Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 2) The entire world in Noah's day
 - 3) So, therefore, if you here His voice, harden not your heart, for now is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation, don't put it off any longer!!!

V. Conclusion

- A. In _____ B.C. the Babylonians and the Medes joined together and attacked the fortress city of Nineveh. The Ninevites lived inside walls 100ft high and wide enough for four chariots to ride abreast. They felt so secure in their stronghold that the king even gave wine to his soldiers to drink even though he knew the enemy was close. Still, God's promise came true when He sent a flood and washed away part of the wall. The attackers rushed in and the drunken Assyrians ran away. The soldiers stopped chasing the Ninevites and plundered the city.
- B. **Practical Application:** Nineveh once had repented and served the Lord God Jehovah (see Jonah). That had changed over the course of 130 years. They had turned away from God again and so God was judging them. The same holds true for us today. God is patient. He gives every country time to proclaim Him as their Lord. But He is not mocked. Any time a country turns away from Him to serve it's own motives He steps in with judgment. As Christians it is our duty to stand up for Biblical principles and Scriptural truth. We are our country's only hope.

VI. Next Study - The Book of Habakkuk