

P.M. OUTLINE
8/13/2017

THE BOOK OF NAHUM

Author: Nahum, a prophet in Judah (the southern kingdom).

Written: Book of Jonah, the prophet who journeyed to Nineveh, capital of Assyria, was written approximately 760 BC.

722 BC - (2 Kings 15:29; 1 Chron. 5:25-26)
Assyria defeats the northern kingdom of Israel.

650 BC (approximate date) - Nahum delivers this message to Judah.

612 BC - Nineveh, capital of Assyria, is defeated by Babylon.

606 BC - Begins the first of three attacks by Babylon on Judah and Jerusalem.

586 BC - (2 Kings 24:1, v10, and 2 Kings 25:1-2) Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, came and defeated Judah and Jerusalem, the southern kingdom, taking many captives back to Babylon.

536 BC - (Ezra 1:1-5) Cyrus issues a decree permitting the captives to return to Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 25:11-14; Daniel 9:2) Captives held for 70 years.

Written to: Though seemingly written to the Assyrians and Nineveh, the message is for the southern kingdom of Judah.

Purpose: (Nahum 1:7-8) expresses comfort to Judah and destruction for Nineveh. Nahum reminds us that God is in control and will not allow evil to persist forever. Nahum reveals the judgment and mercy of God, seemingly opposite traits, that reflect God's consistent stance toward His people.

Assyria is still powerful at this time, known for being a cruel conqueror, and has made an alliance with Judah to offer Judah protection (a vassal relationship).

Chapter summary:

Chapter 1 - God is triumphant, all-powerful, slow to anger, and will also take vengeance on His enemies.

Chapter 2 - Reveals striking images of Nineveh's overthrow by Babylon.

Chapter 3 - Nahum continues to pronounce Nineveh's doom.

CLOSE - Book of Nahum reminds us of God's goodness and salvation as well as of justice and judgment standing side by side.
(Exhibited in the same way in the death of Jesus on the cross)