

The Prophecy of Nahum

By A. S. Copley

*“I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked the
truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the
interpretation of the things”*

Dan.7:16

PREFACE

REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest**: Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

Note: *Definitions of references pulled from WikipediA, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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"The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum, the Elkoshite." [Nah.1:1]

Nahum is the 7th of the minor prophets. Obadiah is the smallest; and Nahum is the next smallest. He was contemporary with Isaiah, and prophesied in the time of Zechariah, the king of Judah. His words are very graphic and awe-inspiring.

Nineveh means, "*the offspring of ease*," and is a type of the Babylon described in Revelation 17 and 18. God gave to Nahum a vision of the end of this age and the introduction into the next.

- The cruelty of the nations against Jerusalem;
- their final attempt to destroy it;
- Jehovah's gracious interference and deliverance of Judah, and
- His final overthrow of the great harlot and of all His foes,

are described graphically in this little prophetic Word.

Jonah had prophesied against Nineveh 150 years before in 862 B.C., and the city repented; hence, it was not then destroyed. Nahum prophesied against it in 710 B.C., and it was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 606 B.C., when he became ruler of the Babylonian Empire. Nineveh had been the capital of Assyria, and was then greater than Babylon. At one time its infants numbered more than 120,000 [Jon.4:11].

"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." [Nah.1:2]

This whole 1st chapter, excepting Verses 7 and 15, is a positive and powerful proof of God's wrath against His enemies. Verse 5 shows that He will visit the wicked with judgment at the close of this age: "*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.*" When it is too late, men will see that the wrathful God of centuries past has never changed. "*The Lord is slow to anger*" [Joe.1:3]; He has suspended His judgments since Christ came and bore the judgment that all men deserve. Meanwhile the Holy Spirit is now calling people to accept Christ's substitutionary death and go free.

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that trust in Him." [Nah.1:7]

Like a brilliant sunburst on a dark day, this verse is thrown in here. The Jews will have a special need of it at the end. They will be glad for **Nahum**, which means "*comforter*," hint of the Holy Spirit. Their greatest "*day of trouble*," called "*the time of Jacob's trouble*" [Jer.30:7], is yet future.

ANTICHRIST FORESHADOWED

"There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor." [Nah.1:11]

That wicked counsellor was Sennacherib, king of Assyria. He was a counsellor of **Belial**, which means "*worthless, wreckless, lawless.*" His predecessor, Shalmaneser, had laid siege against Samaria in 720 B.C., and 3 years later carried Israel captive into Assyria. In 710 B.C. Sennacherib came against Jerusalem with "*a great host*" [2Ki.18:17], or "*by the multitude of my chariots*" [Isa.36:24]. Hezekiah, the king of Judah, prayed and God answered through words of comfort by the mouth of Isaiah, and then by smiting 185,000 of Sennacherib's soldiers. The king "*departed and went and returned and dwelt in Nineveh*," and later, "*Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him*

with the sword" [Isa.37:38]. During that time, Nahum had the vision. Therefore, by a study of 2 Kings 18-19, or Isaiah 36-37, we can understand the details of Nahum's account. But as intimated before, Nahum gives us a picture of end times. Accordingly, Sennacherib is a remarkable type of Antichrist.

THE 7 CLIMACTERIC YEARS

This 1st chapter closes with a very cheering word to Judah, because they will need it greatly.

"Behold, upon the mountains the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."
[Nah.1:15a]

This may be applied to any faithful Gospel herald; but its primary interpretation is limited to our glorious Lord as joined to His mystical body, The Church. It is similar to Zechariah 14:4: *"His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives."* After the greater portion of The Church shall be taken to heaven, the feet portion will be here still, publishing peace. Therefore, Paul quotes these words in direct connection with the Gospel as given to Israel in Romans 10:15-21. Possibly they will be the company of saints represented by the **FIVE FOOLISH VIRGINS**, who will miss the rapture because they refuse the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts; perform thy vows; for the wicked one (Sennacherib) shall no more pass through thee. He is utterly cut off." [Nah.1:15b]

The Jews under Hezekiah obeyed, and God cut off their enemy. But they will need this verse again. The Tribulation days at the end will interfere with Judah's worship. The modern Sennacherib, *"the man of sin,"* will cause the sacrifice to cease, thereby attempting to put an end to the worship of the true God. Hence, Jehovah will encourage His people to *"be strong and do valiantly"* [Dan.11:32], assuring them that the enemy's power will be broken forever. Thus, by the 1st chapter of Nahum, we have a bold introduction, typically, into that overlapping week, or 7 years [Dan.9:24-27], with which this age is considered to end.

"He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face." [Nah.2:1a]

The intimation of Nahum 1:11 is resumed here. Sennacherib is the historic dasher. The Antichrist is the prophetic dasher, who will stand before the face of Jerusalem with purpose to devour her. Hence, the admonition,

"Keep the munition; watch the way; make thy loins strong; fortify thy power mightily." [Nah.2:1b]

That they will do by crying out to God in their distress. Jehovah says, *"I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle"* [Zec.14:2], *"and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations"* [Joe.3:2], or whom *"the emptiers have emptied out and marred their vine branches"* [Nah.2:2]. God will plead for His own by way of judgment upon their foes. As truly as He delivered them from the savage Assyrians; so truly will He deliver them finally and forever from all the nations, and in a similar manner, even by His flaming presence [2Th.1:7-8, 2Th.2:8].

"The shield of his mighty men is made red: the valiant men are in scarlet. The chariots are with flaming torches (flash with steel, RV) in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees are shaken terribly. 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." [Nah.2:3-4]

These 2 verses are a description of Sennacherib's army as he was drilling them for the conflict. The phrase, "*the day of his preparation*," is sometimes applied to the present time, in which our Lord is preparing His saints for the rapture and the world for judgment. The flaming chariots, raging and jostling in the streets, are used as prophetic of the present automobile storm. This application may be made without doing violence to Scripture, or to facts; but such is not the typical (or prophetic) interpretation, which always should be ascertained first of all. Nahum is not telling us of our city autos. He is describing a scene far more serious than our activities of pleasure and business on wheels; therefore, he introduces his prophecy as "*The burden*" [Nah.1:1]. A prophetic load was laid on him; he could not carry it in an auto. It was heavy on his heart.

Nahum saw the soldiery and war chariots of the Antichrist.

- If the warrior's shield and the valiant soldiers themselves seem to be covered with blood;
- if the battle tanks and chariots of war appeared like flames of angry steel, even in the day of preparation for war;
- if the battle drill and dress parade were so imposing and spectacular as to burn with blood-thirsty hatred;
- if Nahum's vision was only a picture of the final world war, and if the carnage of 1914-1918 was simply an earnest of it...

what will be the actual international fiery, bloody, dashing, raging, splashing, leaping, roaring, insane, devil-directed final conflict? The prophet declares that "*the chariots shall rage in the streets*" in their battle drill, as if impatiently waiting for the bloody dash. They shall "*jostle one against another*." In Jeremiah 46:12 we read, "*The mighty shall stumble against the mighty*. So intoxicated will men be with the desire to kill that the broadways will be too narrow for their preparation.

The nations will accept the Divine Challenge of Jeremiah 46:4, "*Harness the horses; stand forth with helmets; furbish the spears and put on the brigandines*." From Russia in the north; from the Euphrates in the east; from Egypt in the south; and from Rome (the seat of the beast), great hosts of battle-armed soldiers, the valiant of the devil, will fly like lightning and gather around Jerusalem to battle. "*For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that He may avenge Him of His adversaries: and the sword shall devour and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood; for the Lord God of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates*" [Jer.46:10]. Language is not adequate to portray the unspeakable horrors of the consummation of this age.

Oh, if men would yield to God and seek His face; if they would accept the judgment that fell upon Jesus on Calvary, judgments predicted never could come. But they will not believe; hence, judgment is inevitable. God "*put away sin by the sacrifice of himself* (the Lamb)" [Heb.9:26]. If men will not believe it, He must put them away "*by the wrath of the Lamb*" [Rev.6:16]. They reject the purification of the world by the blood of Christ, and boast of purifying it by the blood of war; therefore, Jehovah will let them have war to the uttermost. The earth will be purified with judgment. Study Jeremiah 25:15-38.

"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. The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved." [Nah.2:5-6]

"*He shall recount his worthies* (gallants)." Sennacherib boasted in the numbers and strength of his army. He tried to frighten Zechariah, the king of Judah, and dared the God of heaven. But the

mightiest of men are before God less than a gnat beside an elephant. Therefore, as Nahum goes on to say, “*they shall stumble in their walk*,” despite their valor. “*They stumble upon their corpses*,” when the angel of the Lord comes against them [Nah.3:3 with Isa.37:36]. Likewise, the Antichrist will speak great things and blasphemies against God and His name and His tabernacle and them that dwell in heaven. He will make war with the saints and overcome them. The world will run after him and worship him as God [Rev.13:8]. However, despite all his devilish cunning and universal power; “*he will suddenly come to his end and none shall help him*” [Dan.11:45].

“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.” [Nah.2:7]

Huzzab means, “*that which was established*.” It was the most fertile tract in Assyria east of the Tigris river; therefore, it stands here for all Assyria. Its inhabitants gloried in their wealth of silver and gold [Nah.2:9], which they supposed could never be disturbed.

The remaining verses of Nahum 2 prove how futile it is to fight against God. Assyria with all her boasted wealth and strength was overthrown. Her women lamented as doves mourn, beating on their breasts. When they were exhorted to “*stand, stand*” their hearts melted and their knees smote together and their faces gathered blackness [Nah.2:8, 10]. How quickly the proud shrivel up before God’s wrath. Possibly, these women are a type of the churches in the end (compare Rev.2:23).

NINEVEH’S SHAMEFUL END

“Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not; The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots. 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: 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.” [Nah.3:1-4]

Nineveh, the capital of the empire, and hence as representing it, is here addressed. Because of her religious pretensions, God arraigns her king, saying,

“Thy shepherds slumber, O King of Assyria. Thy valiant ones shall dwell in the dust.” [Nah.3:18]

Years after, Babylon was also addressed in a similar manner; for Assyria became a part of the Babylonian Empire.

Chapter 3 describes the full and final overthrow of Nineveh, and the subjugation of the Assyrian Empire and the shame thereof before the other nations. **Nineveh** (meaning “*offspring of ease*”) “*dwelt carelessly*,” acting out the meaning of her name and said in her heart, “*I am, and there is none beside me*” [Zep.2:15], as if Jehovah could not destroy her. Hence, He exclaims to her, “*Art thou better than populous No (No-Ammon), 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?*” [Zep.3:8]. Yet “*she (No-Ammon) was carried away, she went into captivity*” [Nah.3:9-10]. Doubtless reference is made here to the important defeat of the Ethiopians over 200 years before [2Ch.14:9-15, 2Ch.16:8-9]; for No (No-Ammon) was a large city on both sides of the Nile river in Egypt. God challenges Nineveh to strengthen herself to the uttermost yet she should be destroyed without remedy:

“Draw thee waters for the siege; fortify thy strong holds; go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brick-kiln. 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.” [Nah.3:14-15]

TYPE OF THE HARLOT

Why is so much said in God's Word about that antiquated city? God has not recorded past events because He is interested in history. Never. Here is the answer: "*They happened unto them for types, and were written for our admonition on whom the ends of the ages have arrived*" [1Co.10:10 RV]. Therefore, we find the anti-type of Nineveh in the great whore of Revelation 17-18. Papal Rome makes the same blasphemous boasts which that ancient city made. She terms herself "the mother church," and her headquarters "the eternal city." "*She hath glorified herself and lived deliciously...for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow and shall see no sorrow*" [Rev.18:7]. Observe that what is said of Nineveh and Assyria in Nahum 3 and Zephaniah 2:12-15 is also said of Babylon in Isaiah 47:7-9 and in Revelation 18.

"All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations."

"Under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell."
[Eze.17:23b]

"All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations." [Eze.31:6]

This is written of the Assyrians, from which there is an amazing prophetic leap to one of our Lord's 7 parables, which set forth "*the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*" [Mat.13:11]; for therein He declares that the kingdom of God mysteriously is "*like a grain of mustard seed, which when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth; but when it is sown it groweth up and becometh greater than all herbs and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it*" [Luk.13:30-32]. The real people of God have been always a small company comparatively, as an **HERB** rather than a **GREAT TREE**. But professed Christendom, of which the Roman Church is the first and chief factor, has grown to be a gigantic tree. The Holy Spirit declares that Rome has "*become the habitation of demons and the hold of every foul spirit and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird*" [Rev.18:2]. Paul writes of these demons and foul spirits in 1 Timothy 4:1-3: "*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, having their conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry and bidding to abstain from meats*"; which he terms "*profane and old wives' fables*" in 1 Timothy 4:7. Bear in mind that Catholicism claims to be that great mustard tree, or **THE TRUE CHURCH** today, of whom the other denominations are the daughters. And, she is the "*woman who took the leaven (corrupt doctrine) and hid it in three measures of meal (all the counsel of the triune God), till the whole was leavened*" [Mat.13:33].

Indeed, Rome has proven herself to be "*the mistress of witchcrafts; for by her sorceries were all nations deceived*" [Rev.18:23 with Nah.3:3]. The bewitching power of her religion of works is unspeakable. Paul cried out to the Galatians saying, "*Who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth?*" [Gal.3:1]. John proclaims as a last day warning that "*all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication*" [Rev.14:8]. Yes, she boasts in her nationwide missionary operations; but God says her "*works*" are "*sorcery,*" "*fornication,*" "*sins,*" and "*iniquities*" [Rev.18:3, 5, 23]. He pronounces her, "*The great harlot, with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication*" [Rev.18:9]; that is, they have accepted the legalism of Catholicism, which in some countries has become the state religion, rather than the salvation of Jesus Christ through grace. Yet meanwhile, she loudly professes to be the only true church of Christ. And doubtless, Rome is the chief advisor in forming the league of nations.

Nahum said, "*Nineveh is of old like a pool of water*" [Nah.2:8], inviting all nations to drink from her bosom (but at great cost). But Jehovah denominates her "*a pool,*" furnishing only stagnant drink...sickly, slimy, poisonous, and destructive...exactly what Rome has given to the world.

THE DOOM IN 1 DAY

Notwithstanding all the wealth of the wicked city, and all her boasted strength and glory, at the very pinnacle of her fame and prowess, Jehovah exclaims,

"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. [Nah.3:15]

There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit (report) of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?" [Nah.3:19]

Likewise Rome, "*the mother of harlots*" [Rev.17:5], in the height of her harlotry glory, when she shouts the loudest, "*I sit a queen and am no widow* (not acknowledging that God has long ago disfellowshipped her), *and shall see no sorrow*"; then, "*shall her plagues come in one day, death and mourning and famine and she shall be utterly burned with fire; for strong is the Lord God that judgeth her.*" When she shall think to have supremacy of the nations forever—for she shall "*reign over the kings of the earth*" [Rev.17-18], and even help the Antichrist to his throne—at the dizzying pinnacle of her power and glory "*the ten horns and the beast shall hate the whore and shall make her desolate and naked* (expose her religious hypocrisy) *and shall eat her flesh* (completely nationalize the system) *and burn her with fire* (utterly demolish her religion): *for God hath put in their hearts to fulfill His will...until the words of God shall be fulfilled*" [Rev.17:16-17].

There is only one word of mercy heard in the Divine Anathema of Revelation 18. It is the last appeal to the few believers that may be found within Rome's embrace. "*Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues*" [Rev.18:4]. Thank God for the little prophecy of Nahum. Thank God, that long ago He caused some of us to hear and heed that call of wondrous grace. Hence, we have the supreme hope of being in the heavenly throne room with our glorious Bridegroom, when that final urgent mercy summons is made.

"To Him be the glory and the dominion forever." [Rev.1:6]

Sennacherib Overthrown

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
His cohorts were gleaming with purple and gold,
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the sea,
When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.

Like the leaves of the forest when summer is green,
That huge host with banners at sunset were seen,
Like the leaves of the forest when autumn hath blown,
That host on the morrow lay withered and mown:

For the Angel of death spread his wings on the blast,
And he breathed in the face of the foe as he passed.
Then the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and forever grew still.

Then there lay the steed with his nostril ope wide;
Yet thru it there rolled not the breath of his pride;
But the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And as cold as the spray of the rock beaten surf.

And there lay the rider, distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow and the rust on his mail;
While the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
And the lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown.

Ah, the widows of Asher were loud in their wail,
And the idols were broke in the temple of Baal;
For the might of the Gentile unsmote by the sword,
Lay melted like snow in the glance of the Lord.

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