Nahum

CHAPTER 1

**Against Nineveh**

A divine word about Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. 2Yahweh is a jealous God and avenges; Yahweh avenges and is full of wrath. Yahweh takes vengeance on His adversaries, and He maintains wrath against His enemies. 3Yahweh is slow to anger, and great in power, and will by no means leave the guilty unpunished. Yahweh has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet. 4He rebukes the sea, and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers. Bashan languishes, and Carmel; and the flower of Lebanon languishes. 5The mountains quake before Him, and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at His presence, yes, the world, and all who dwell in it. 6Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken apart by Him. 7Yahweh is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who take refuge in Him. 8But with an overflowing flood He will make a full end of His adversaries, and will pursue His enemies into darkness. 9What do you plot against Yahweh? He will make a full end; affliction won’t rise up the second time. 10For while they are entangled in thorns, and intoxicated with their drink, they will be consumed utterly like dry stubble. 11There is one gone forth out of you, who devises evil against Yahweh, who counsels wickedness. 12Thus says Yahweh: “Though they be in full strength, and likewise many, even so they will be cut down, and he shall pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. 13Now will I break his yoke from off you, and will burst your bonds apart.” 14Yahweh has commanded concerning you: “No more descendants will bear your name. Out of the house of your gods will I cut off the engraved image and the molten image. I will make your grave, for you are vile.” 15Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, Judah! Perform your vows, for the wicked one will no more pass through you. He is utterly cut off.

CHAPTER 2

**How Nineveh is to Fall**

He who dashes in pieces has come up against you. Keep the fortress! Watch the way! Strengthen your muscles! Fortify your power mightily! 2For Yahweh restores the pride of Jacob, as the pride of Israel; for the destroyers have destroyed them, and ruined their vine branches. 3The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are dressed in scarlet, the chariots flash with steel in the day of his preparation, and the pine spears are brandished. 4The chariots rage in the streets, they rush back and forth in the broad highways. Their appearance is like torches, they run like lightning. 5He summons his picked troops. They stumble on their way. They dash to protect its wall, and the protective shield is put in place. 6The gates of the rivers are opened, and the palace is dissolved. 7It is decreed: she is uncovered, she is carried away; and her handmaids moan as with the voice of doves, beating on their breasts. 8Like water from a burst dam the people rush away from Nineveh. “Stop! Stop!” they cry, but no one looks back. 9Take the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold, for there is no end of the booty, the glory of all goodly jewels. 10She is empty, void, and waste. The heart melts, the knees knock together, their bodies and faces have grown pale. 11Where is the den of the lions, and the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion and the lioness walked, the lion’s cubs, and no one made them afraid? 12The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his caves with the kill, and his dens with prey. 13“Behold, I am against you,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions; and I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your envoys will no longer be heard.”

CHAPTER 3

**A Woe to Nineveh**

Woe to the city of blood! It is all full of lies and robbery- no end to the prey! 2The noise of the whip, the noise of the rattling of wheels, prancing horses, and bounding chariots, 3the horseman mounting, and the flashing sword, the glittering spear, and a multitude of slain, and a great heap of corpses, and there is no end of the bodies. They stumble on their bodies, 4because of the multitude of the prostitution of the alluring prostitute, the mistress of witchcraft, who sells nations through her prostitution, and families through her witchcraft. 5“Behold, I am against you,” says Yahweh of Armies, “and I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness, and the kingdoms your shame. 6I will throw abominable filth on you, and make you vile, and will set you a spectacle. 7It will happen that all those who look at you will flee from you, and say, ‘Nineveh is laid waste! Who will mourn for her?’ Where will I seek comforters for you? 8Are you better than No-Amon, who was situated among the rivers, who had the waters around her; whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was of the sea? 9Cush and Egypt were her infinite strength. Put and Libya were her helpers. 10Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity. Her young children also were dashed in pieces at the head of all the streets, and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her senior leaders were bound in chains. 11You also will be drunken. You will go into hiding. You also will seek a stronghold because of the enemy. 12All your fortresses will be like fig trees with the first-ripe figs: if they are shaken, they fall into the mouth of the eater. 13Behold, your troops in your midst are like women. The gates of your land are set wide open to your enemies. The fire has devoured your bars. 14Draw water for the siege. Strengthen your fortresses. Go into the clay, and tread the mortar. Make the brick kiln strong. 15There the fire will devour you. The sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the grasshopper. You have multiplied like grasshoppers, bred like the locust. 16You have increased your merchants more than the stars of the skies. The grasshopper strips, and flees away. 17Your guards are like the locusts, and your officials like the swarms of locusts, which settle on the walls on a cold day, but when the sun appears, they flee away, and their place is not known where they are. 18Your shepherds slumber, king of Assyria. Your nobles lie down, your people are scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them. 19There is no healing for your wound, for your injury is fatal. All who hear the report of you clap their hands over you; for who hasn’t felt your endless cruelty?