

NAHUM

& The Downfall of Nineveh

- Nahum is complex, using several features such as acrostics, telestiches, base-60 math and more
- Nahum 1:1 The only time we'll hear Nahum's name
- We have nearly no info about him
- Probably gave the oracle to a Scribe to write down
- Other Prophets almost certainly did the same



SEPPER

- Nahum means full of compassion
- Lived in a time very close to Isaiah and Micah
- **Sepher** = a written document in almost any format
- No such thing as a codex (a book of bound pages) until around Paul's era
- **Hazon** = vision, a term used in relation to prophecy



TELESTICH IN NAHUM CHAPTER 1:1 - 3

סֵפֶר נְחֻם

Book of Nahum

- Telestich = final letter, of the final word, of a series
- Nahum chapter 1: it appears in vss. 1, 2a, 2b, 3a
- Because we use verse numbers, then we'll also use a letter when speaking about the first half of a verse, or the second half (as in 1a and 1b)
- But... Bible verses do not align with the beginning and end of Hebrew lines of poetry

CANAANITE GOD EL



- Nahum 1:2 Yehoveh is a jealous and vengeful God...
- BHT Nahum 1:2 '*EL qannô' wünöqëm yhwh*
- Vss. 1 – 10 are a Psalm about God's vengeance on Nineveh
- Vs. 2 actually begins with the word EL, which indicates the chief god
- EL does NOT mean Yehoveh or God
- EL is said to be Ba'al in Canaanite
- Since that is the case, why is God called EL, here in Nahum? Only because it works for the poetic structure

GOD

— IS A —

JEALOUS

GOD

Nahum 1:2

- **Qanno** = jealous, or better zealous
- A word of intensity, not envy
- Always in reference to God
- (Nah. 1:2 BHT)
nôqêm yhwh û**BA'AL** Hêmâ
- **Ba'al hemah** is an expression, meaning “ba'al of wrath” or “lord of wrath”
- It had to be worded this way to make the poetic word count work
- **Naqam** = avenge
- **Noter** = something long term

The character of God

God is Slow to Anger

Exodus 34:6-7

- ***Gadol koah*** = Great in power; refers to God's grace
- Where is the balance point between His wrath and His grace? Exodus 34:6 – 7 tells us
- Mercy and grace for 1000 generations, His wrath for only 3 or 4 generations BUT... that is for His people
- It is different for His enemies like Nineveh. For them it is permanent destruction with no hope of restoration.

➤ Hidden teletich in vs. 1 – 3

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| ➤ Ha-elqoshi = <i>Yud</i> | Y | Y |
| ➤ Hemah = <i>Heh</i> | H | e |
| ➤ Lesarav = <i>Vav</i> | V | h |
| ➤ Yehaqqeh = <i>Heh</i> | H | o |
| | | v |
| | | e |
| | | h |

- The picture is of the Divine Warrior
- It is Holy War only when God is the One that orders war
- Prophet Jonah sent to Nineveh
- Prophet Nahum is the rest of the story for Nineveh



the LORD hath his way in
the whirlwind and in the
storm



Dust and Clouds

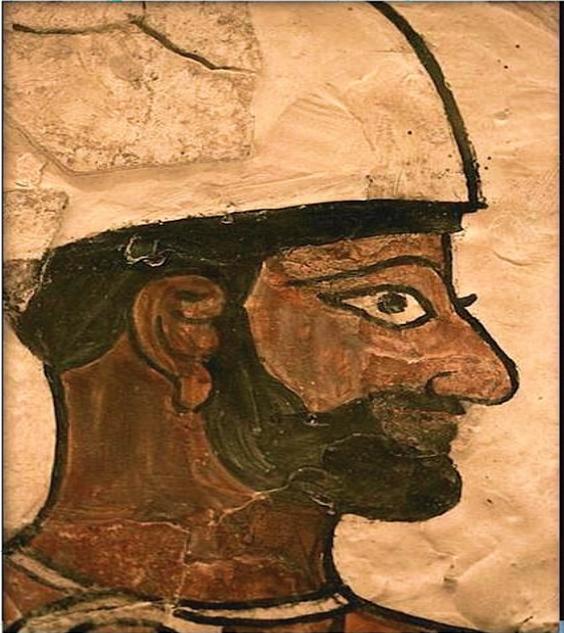
- Nahum 1:4
- *Go'er* usually translated as “rebukes”
- Not a strong enough word; better is “blasts”
- Is meant to remind us of the Red Sea parting
- Bashan and Carmel are lush areas of Israel
- Lebanon has world-renowned forests
- God can change the climate for devastation or for abundance



The Great Shaking

- Nahum 1:5 continues the thought from 1:4
- God controlling climate can devastate plant life, so can earth's geography and features be dissolved by Him
- The pairing of mountain (*har*) and hill (*gibah*) are common in the Bible
- Mountains thought of as the oldest cosmic pillars, hills were where temples to the gods existed

Shamshi-Adad I



- “In the Lord’s (Baal’s) anger the heavens with shake, in Adad’s anger the earth will tremble, the great mountains will crumble”
- Nahum 1:6 A wisdom saying with this same thought as in the Mesopotamian literature
- Joel and Jonah in the same era, so Joel 2:11 says the same thing
- Such is God that His wrath cannot be withstood by man
- Nineveh is doomed, decided, and nothing can stop it
- The solution before it comes to this? Make peace with God