

An Old Testament Glance

The Minor Prophets Books – Nahum

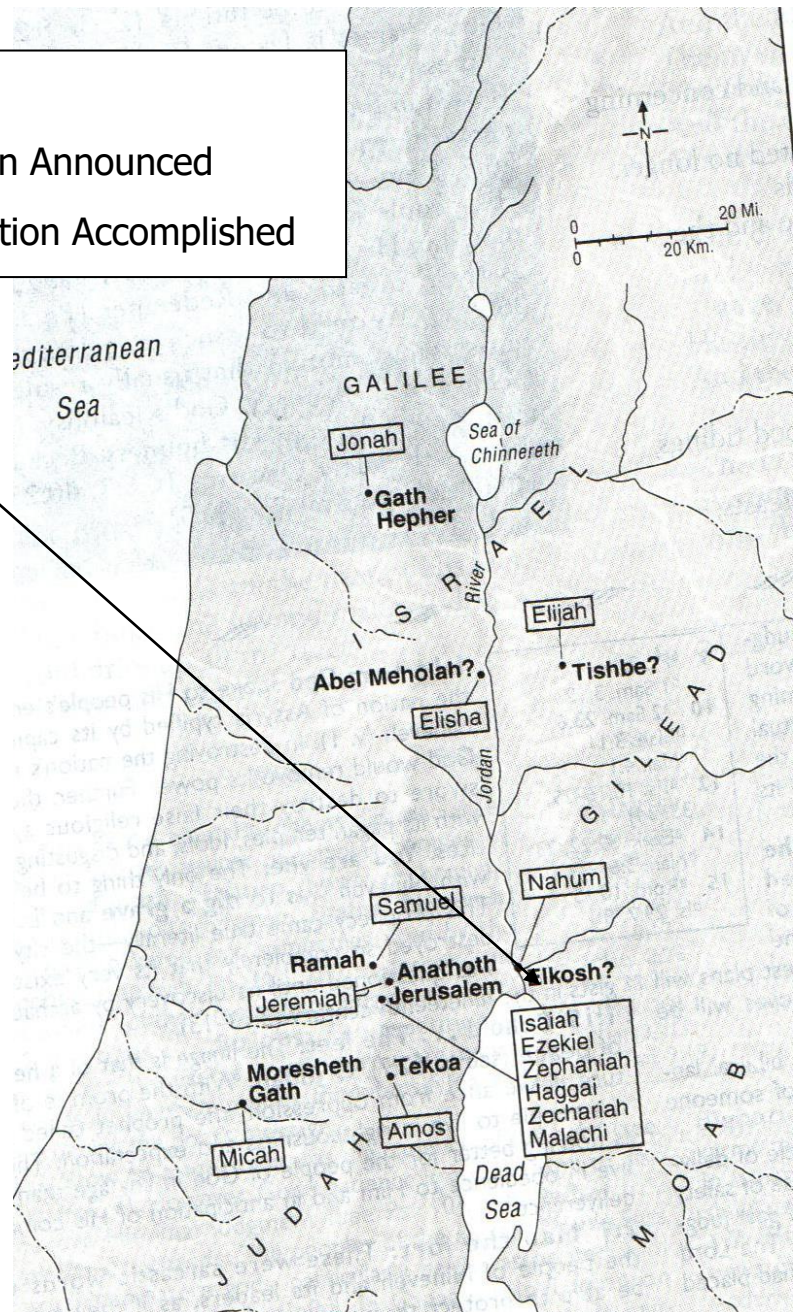
Name Meaning	Dates of Service	Home Town	# Chaps	Kings Reigning	Audience Targeted	Theme or Subject
"Comfort"	664-612 BC	Elkosh	3	Man – Josiah (South)	Jews in North	Assyria Destruction
Prophets Ministering at the same time:			Jeremiah			
Scripture References:			2 Kings 15-18; Nahum 1-3			

BRIEF OUTLINE

Nahum 1:1 – 14 Assyria's Destruction Announced

Nahum 1:15 – 3:19 Assyria's Destruction Accomplished

Notice that Nahum's hometown is in Elkosh, on the Jordan River, just above the Dead Sea.



1. Explain why the word "against" is used three times in the book. (1:1; 2:13; 3:5)

2. Describe God's attitude toward the enemies of Israel.

- a. (1:2) God is _____
- b. (1:2) The Lord _____
- c. (1:2) The Lord _____
- d. (1:2) The Lord _____
- e. (1:2) The Lord takes _____
- f. (1:2) He reserves _____
- g. (1:3) The Lord is slow to _____ & great in _____.
- h. (1:3) The Lord will not _____ the _____.

The Assyrians (Nineveh) are in deep trouble. "Revenge" is harming someone who harmed someone else. Only God has the authority to take revenge since He has all the facts, and since He does it as a loving & merciful God.

3. Assyrian gods ran their lives (2400 gods for every part of life).
 - a. How was "Adramelech" (the "sun" god) attacked? (Nahum 1:8; 2:2)

 - b. How was "Tiamat" (the "sea" god) attacked? (1:4)

Their National god was "Assur" (also the "god of war". It was part of their religion to have wars with neighbors (soon to be enemies).

4. Match the verse with something God would attack in Assyrian society:
 - a. (1:14) ___ Swords of steel (Their swords cause fear in all enemies)
 - b. (1:14) ___ House of the gods (They built houses for all their gods)
 - c. (2:4) ___ Bloody (They soaked their clothes in blood before a battle)
 - d. (2:6) ___ Gates of rivers (They stopped water supplies in enemy towns)
 - e. (2:11) ___ Graves (They did not believe in afterlife, so death terrified them)
 - f. (2:13) ___ Seas & Rivers (God dried up waters; their sea god was powerless)
 - g. (3:1) ___ Chariots (Their chariots were unstoppable; God burned them)
 - h. (3:8) ___ Lions (Lions were a symbol of their fierceness; torn in pieces)

These references would make sense to the Assyrians; they used these items or techniques to destroy their enemies; now, God will attack those things.

God went right for their throats with this message by Nahum.

Judah, the Southern Kingdom, would have heard these words at some point. They would be glad that Assyria (Nineveh) was getting what they deserved.

If Judah thought they were ok, even though living like hell, they are seeing the Northern Kingdom fall (612 BC. Three years later, the great Assyrian empire fell.

God turned against the Northern Kingdom; they were defeated & exiled. Look at God's grace & forgiveness for HIS PEOPLE. They returned to their land.

God turned against Assyria; they were defeated. They no longer exist.

5. What would you tell Judah (the Southern Kingdom)? They're next. Is there a message here for you? _____
