

Nahum – A Vision – An Oracle – to Assyria - Part II

This week I'm planning for us to take a look at the rest of the message to Ninevah

Lenses:

1. The Akkadian cuneiform for that city/capital of Assyria is Nina, graphically represented as a fish inside a house. It is generally associated with the meaning “*House of Fish*” or a place dedicated to the goddess Ishtar whose name or symbol was connected to fish/fertility.
2. Historical Note: Nahum wrote between 663-612 BCE. Ancient Ninevah was completely destroyed in 612 BCE by an allied army of Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians. The coalition set siege to the city for three months. Heavy rains caused the Tigris River to flood. Rushing water broke the foundations of the massive city walls, the invaders poured through the gaps. (Note: Nahum 1:8) They burned the palaces and destroyed the temples.
Ancient texts including *Fall of Ninevah Chronical* and modern archeological evidence indicate this was strategic targeting and not random chaos.
3. Lord- Yahweh-The covenant God – in this case it seems to me that Yahweh had a particular covenant with Israel – to be a light house for the middle east. I find it interesting to think what name our Deity used when speaking to other peoples like the Native Americans or Chinese.
4. Nahum 1:9 – Destroy=*kalah hu oseh*. *Kalah* is the specific word for destroy. *Oseh* means making or doing.
5. Shields were dyed red to symbolize blood and power and sometimes to create a unified look on the battlefield.
6. Chapter 2; verse 12 El Shaddai, the Lord of Heaven's armies. This is the name used when God is leading the armies of Israel to success.

7. Chapter 3: 4-7 - This concept, almost the exact words are quoted in Revelation 17 and 18.
8. Nahum 3:12 - Jesus used symbols of fig trees. Many of these allusions will be seen again in Revelation. For such a small book there are many metaphors or allusions from it in the gospels and in Revelation.
9. Judah fell to Babylon in two parts; March 16 597 BCE and July/August 597 BCE

Questions:

1. What do you think it was like for Nahum to be the last desperate call save the Assyrians. We rarely talk about what it is like for prophets share these messages.
2. I am wondering if, given what will happen 15 years after Assyria falls this isn't a last object lesson or show of love for Judah.
3. 1:9 – What do you think is the meaning of “plotting against Yahweh”?
4. What do you make of the phrase “distress will not arise a second time”?
5. In 1:14 what do you make of Nahum as Yahweh's representative focus on the dynasty, images and idols?
6. Why do you think the invading armies destroyed the temples and burned the palaces?
7. Vs. 15 – what do you think would be the meaning of a value in “fulfilling sacred vows to praise God”?
8. Nahum 2:1 – why do you think he writes “guard the rampart! Watch the road!”
9. Nahum 3:1 Why would those particular couplets be put together?
10. 3:2,3 Why would Nahum write such specific details.
11. 3:4 – why would it be important to have these verses. What does it say about Nahum's understanding of Yahweh's priorities.

12. 3:16 – in these couplets officers are compared to shepherds. What do you make of this.
13. 3:19 – What do you make of the reason why Assyria will be destroyed. Does it say anything to you about the character of God?
14. What surprised you about this book?

My thoughts are with you.

Catherine