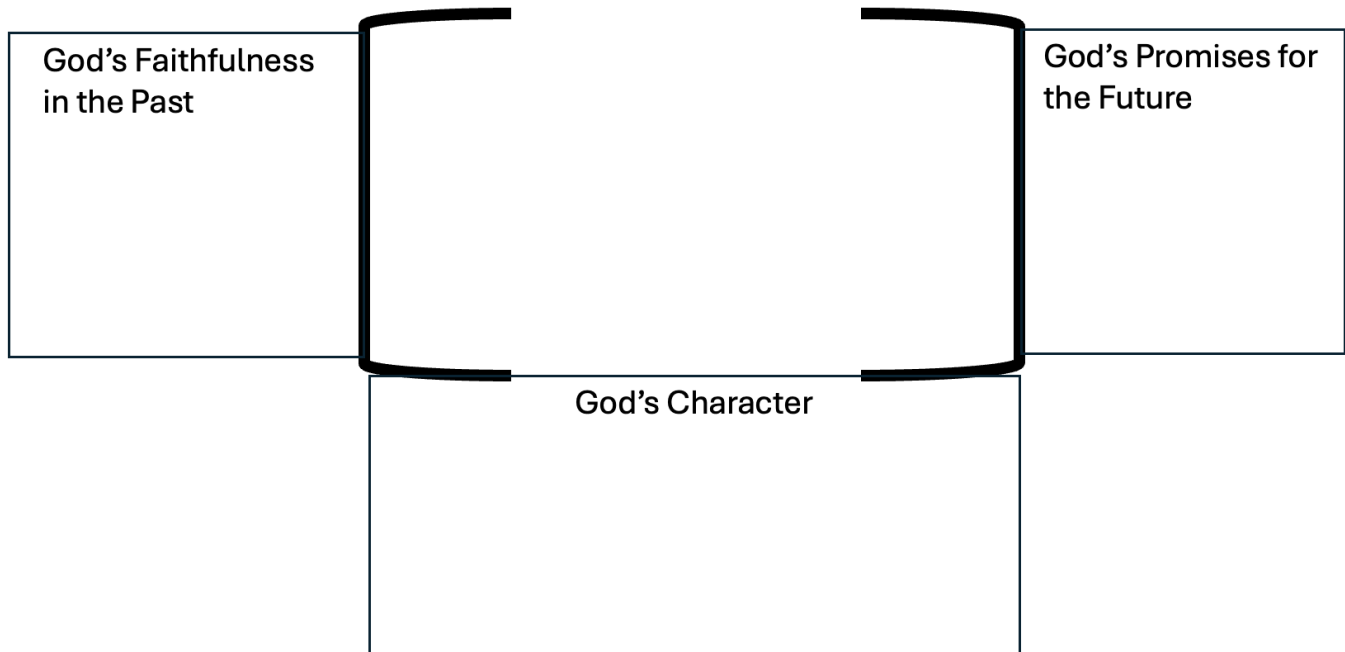




## Nahum - The Bracketed Life



- I. The Context of Nahum
- II. The Message of Nahum
  - A. War-Psalm (1:2-8)
  - B. God and His People (1:9-15)
  - C. Woes and Taunts and a Dirge against Nineveh (Nahum 2-3)
- III. Nahum and the New Testament (Colossians 2:15 - He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.)



## **Nahum Study Guide**

### **SECTION 1: Nahum 2:1-2 - The Call to Battle and Restoration of Judah**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:

- - God is bringing judgment - Nineveh's fall is not just political but divinely ordained.

- - Judah's restoration - While Nineveh is destroyed, God preserves His covenant people.

- - False security of the wicked - Nineveh trusted in power, but only God's Kingdom stands.

- - God's sovereignty over history - No empire lasts apart from God's will.

- Discussion Questions:

- Are we putting our trust in earthly security instead of Christ?
- How does knowing God controls the rise and fall of nations affect our faith today?
- How should God's promise of restoration encourage Christians today who feel overwhelmed by evil in the world?

## **SECTION 2: Nahum 2:3-10 - The Siege and Fall of Nineveh**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:

- - God's judgment is inevitable - Nineveh's defenses fail despite its strength.

- - The end of earthly glory - No kingdom lasts apart from God's will.

- - Justice for the oppressed - Nineveh's cruelty is repaid in full.

- - Echoes of Babylon's fall - This points to the final destruction of all rebellious nations in Revelation 18.

- Discussion Questions:

- "Nineveh had everything—power, wealth, status—and yet it crumbles in a moment. If the most powerful nation in the world couldn't save itself, what does that tell us about our own dependence on strength, money, or success?"
- "What are the 'Ninevehs' in your own life? What things do you secretly believe will keep you secure, and what would happen if they were taken away?"
- "How does this passage display God's absolute sovereignty over nations and empires? How does it humble human pride?"
- "Nineveh trusted in its strength but was overthrown. What areas of our lives might we be trusting in more than God?"

### **SECTION 3: Nahum 2:11-13 - The Lion's Den: Nineveh's Arrogance and Doom**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:

- - Nineveh as a lion - It once saw itself as the strongest predator, now it is hunted.
- - God's judgment is personal - 'I am against you,' declares the LORD (v. 13).
- - Power and wealth cannot save - All Nineveh's treasures are plundered.
- - The pride of nations is fleeting - Earthly strength cannot outlast God's sovereignty.

- Discussion Questions:

- What does this passage teach about the dangers of arrogance and self-sufficiency?
- Are there areas in our lives where we trust in ourselves more than God?
- How does the humility of Christ contrast with the pride of Nineveh?
- "Nineveh saw itself as a lion, untouchable and dominant. But what happens when the strongest, most secure empire suddenly loses everything? Where does human pride lead us?"
- "What does the destruction of Nineveh teach us about the certainty of God's Word? How does this affirm the doctrine of divine providence?"
- "What does it mean for Christians to live humbly before God in a culture that prizes self-sufficiency and power?"

## **SECTION 4: Nahum 3:1-7 - The Reasons for Nineveh's Destruction**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:

- - Nineveh's sins - Bloodshed, deceit, and oppression bring God's righteous judgment. The "prostitution" represents Nineveh's defiling of many other nations as it spread its "way of life" of sensuality and idolatry to every place it conquered.

- - God holds nations accountable - No nation is above His justice.

- - Public disgrace - Nineveh, once feared, is now a mockery.

- - Sin will be exposed - No evil escapes God's judgment (Luke 8:17).

- Discussion Questions:

- How does knowing justice is coming affect the way we live?
- Are there areas in our lives where we need to repent before God exposes our sin?
- "How does this passage demonstrate that God's patience with the wicked is not infinite? How does this inform our understanding of divine justice?"
- "Why does God expose Nineveh's shame publicly? How does this reveal God's judgment not only on individuals but on entire societies?"
- "What warnings should we take from Nineveh's destruction regarding personal holiness and repentance?"

## **SECTION 5: Nahum 3:8-13 - The Example of Thebes: No One is Untouchable**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:

- - Thebes fell, so will Nineveh - No nation is too strong to fall.

- - God judges arrogance - Power without God is nothing.

- - Earthly power is fragile - Thebes and Nineveh fell, but God's Kingdom stands.

- - Only God's Kingdom is eternal - Everything else crumbles.

- Discussion Questions:

- Are we putting too much trust in earthly things?
- How does this passage help us find security in God alone?
- "If God has overthrown powerful cities before, why do people still place their trust in human strength? What does this teach us about the blindness of sin?"
- "Why do people assume their lives, nations, or institutions are immune from collapse? How does this passage challenge that assumption?"
- "How does this passage remind us that only God's kingdom is unshakable?"
- "How can this passage give us peace when we see powerful nations and leaders rise and fall?"

## **SECTION 6: Nahum 3:14-19 - The Final Judgment of Nineveh**

- Key Points to Understand the Passage:- - Nineveh's futile defense - No human effort can stop God's judgment.

- - The certainty of judgment - 'Nothing can heal your wound' (v. 19).

- - Nineveh's leaders disappear - Power is temporary, but God's Kingdom remains.

- - The nations rejoice at Nineveh's fall - Justice is not just punishment, but deliverance.

- Discussion Questions:

- How does the fall of Nineveh foreshadow final judgment in Revelation?
- How does this passage motivate us to share the Gospel before it's too late?
- "The book of Nahum ends with a fatal wound—Nineveh's destruction is irreversible. What does that tell us about the reality of God's judgment, and is that hard for us to accept?"
- "How does this passage refute the idea that God is indifferent toward evil? What does it teach about His justice?"
- "How does this passage remind us that sin has consequences, even if judgment seems delayed?"