

Nahum 3 - The Woe of Nineveh

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Nahum 3

III. Nineveh's doom deserved (Nahum 3:1-19)

(1) Nineveh's harlotries (3:1-7)

- (A) Woe pronounced (3:1)

1 Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage; *Her* prey does not leave.

1 Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies and pillage; *Her* prey never departs.

1 Woe to this city, contaminated with shed blood, all full of lies and robberies— it is never without victims!

1 Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;

(B) Attack from the Army (3:2-3)

2 The sound of the whip, The sound of the roar of the wheel, Galloping horses And bounding chariots!

2 The noise of the whip, The noise of the rattling of the wheel, Galloping horses And bounding chariots!

2 The crack of whips and the clamor of wheels! The galloping horses and the bounding chariots!

2 The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots.

3 Horsemen charging, Swords flashing, spears gleaming, Many killed, a mass of corpses, And there is no end to *the* dead bodies— They stumble over the dead bodies!

3 Horsemen charging, Swords flashing, spears gleaming, Many slain, a mass of corpses,
And countless dead bodies— They stumble over the dead bodies!
3 The cavalry attacks— the flashing sword and the glittering spear! Many are the slain— so
many casualties!— No end to bodies, and the soldiers trip over the corpses.
3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a
multitude of slain, and a great number of carcases; and there is none end of their corpses;
they stumble upon their corpses:

(C) Sins of harlotry (3:4)

4 *All* because of the many sexual acts of the prostitute, The charming one, the mistress of
sorceries, Who sells nations by her sexual acts, And families by her sorceries.
4 *All* because of the many harlotries of the harlot, The charming one, the mistress of
sorceries, Who sells nations by her harlotries And families by her sorceries.
4 Innumerable are the harlotries of this well-favored whore, this mistress of witchcraft,
who enslaves nations through her fornication and families through her sorcery.
4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of
witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her
witchcrafts.

(D) Attack from God (3:5-7)

5 "Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of armies; "And I will lift up your skirts
over your face, And show the nations your nakedness, And the kingdoms your shame.
5 "Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts; "And I will lift up your skirts over
your face, And show to the nations your nakedness And to the kingdoms your disgrace.
5 "Look, I am against you," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, "so I will pull up
your dress over your face. I will show your nakedness to the nations, and your disgrace to
the kingdoms.
5 Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy
face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.
6 "I will throw filth on you And declare you worthless, And set you up as a spectacle.
6 "I will throw filth on you And make you vile, And set you up as a spectacle.
6 I will hurl abominable filth upon you, making you look foolish, and making an example of
you.
6 And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a
gazingstock.

7 "And it will come about that all who see you Will shrink from you and say, 'Nineveh is devastated! Who will have sympathy for her?' Where shall I seek comforters for you?"

7 "And it will come about that all who see you Will shrink from you and say, 'Nineveh is devastated! Who will grieve for her?' Where will I seek comforters for you?"

7 It will be that everyone who looks at you will run away, saying, 'Nineveh has been violently overthrown! Who will mourn for her? Where will I find anyone to comfort you?"

7 And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

(2) Nineveh's mistreatment of other nations (3:8-10)

8 Are you better than No-amon, Which was situated by the canals of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall consisted of the sea?

8 Are you better than No-amon, Which was situated by the waters of the Nile, With water surrounding her, Whose rampart was the sea, Whose wall consisted of the sea?

8 "Are you any better than Thebes, which sits by the upper Nile, surrounded by water? The sea was her defense, the waters her wall of protection.

8 Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea?

9 Ethiopia was *her* might, Egypt too, without limits. Put and Lubim were among her helpers.

9 Ethiopia was *her* might, And Egypt too, without limits. Put and Lubim were among her helpers.

9 Sudan was her source of strength, along with Egypt— there were no limits. Put and the Libyans were her allies.

9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

10 Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also her small children were smashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound with shackles.

10 Yet she became an exile, She went into captivity; Also her small children were dashed to pieces At the head of every street; They cast lots for her honorable men, And all her great men were bound with fetters.

10 But she, too, was exiled— she went into captivity! Her young children were dashed to pieces at every crossroad of their streets, and her famous citizens were sold by lottery, while all of her aristocrats were put in chains.

10 Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains

(3) Nineveh's false security (3:11-19)

(A) Destruction predicted (3:11)

11 You too will become drunk, You will be hidden. You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.

11 You too will become drunk, You will be hidden. You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.

11 You will also become drunk. You will disappear, trying to hide from your enemies.

11 Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.

(B) Nineveh's complete defenselessness (3:12-18)

12 All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit— When shaken, they fall into the eater's mouth.

12 All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit— When shaken, they fall into the eater's mouth.

12 All your defenses are like fig trees with ripe early fruit— when shaken, it falls right into the devourer's mouth.

12 All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, your people are women in your midst! The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies; Fire consumes your gate bars.

13 Behold, your people are women in your midst! The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies; Fire consumes your gate bars.

13 Look at your people— they are women! Your borders stand wide open to your enemies, while fire consumes the bars of your gates."

13 Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

The Futility of Avoiding God's Judgment

14 Draw for yourself water for a siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Take hold of the brick mold!

14 Draw for yourself water for the siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Go into the clay and tread the mortar! Take hold of the brick mold!

14 "Draw water, because a siege is coming! Strengthen your fortresses! Make the clay good and strong! Mix the mortar! Go get your brick molds!

14 Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the morter, make strong the brickkiln.

15 There fire will consume you, The sword will cut you down; It will consume you as the creeping locust *consumes a crop*. Multiply yourself like the creeping locust, Multiply yourself like the migratory locust.

15 There fire will consume you, The sword will cut you down; It will consume you as the locust *does*. Multiply yourself like the creeping locust, Multiply yourself like the swarming locust.

15 In that place fire will consume you, the sword will cut you down, consuming you as locusts do. Multiply yourself like locusts, increase like swarming grasshoppers.

15 There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

16 You have made your traders more numerous than the stars of heaven— The creeping locust sheds its skin and flies away.

16 You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven— The creeping locust strips and flies away.

16 You added to your inventory of businessmen— they number more than the stars of heaven. The creeping locust sheds its skin and flies away.

16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away.

17 Your courtiers are like the migratory locust. Your officials are like a swarm of locusts Settling in the stone shelters on a cold day. The sun rises and they flee, And the place where they are is not known.

17 Your guardsmen are like the swarming locust. Your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers Settling in the stone walls on a cold day. The sun rises and they flee, And the place where they are is not known.

17 Your imperial guards are like the swarming grasshopper; your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers, settling in the stone walls on a chilly day. The sun rises, and they flee away; no one knows where they went.

17 Thy crowned are as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are.

18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; Your officers are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains And there is no one to gather *them*.

18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria; Your nobles are lying down. Your people are scattered on the mountains And there is no one to regather *them*.

18 Hey king of Assyria! Your shepherds are asleep and your nobles are lying down! Your people lie scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them together.

18 Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

(C) Final destruction described and applauded (3:19)

19 There is no relief for your collapse, Your wound is incurable. All who hear about you Will clap *their* hands over you, For upon whom has your evil not come continually?

19 There is no relief for your breakdown, Your wound is incurable. All who hear about you Will clap *their* hands over you, For on whom has not your evil passed continually?

19 There is no healing for your injury— your wound is fatal. Everyone who hears about you will applaud, because who hasn't escaped your endless evil?"

19 There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually