

# LESSON EIGHT

Nahum  
650 B.C.

## Introduction-(Ryrie)

- We know little about Nahum, whose name means “consolation.”
- Nahum came from Elkosh, the possible the town of Capernaum.



Capernaum

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/israel-in-the-time-of-jesus-bible-maps--625578204506050078/>

- The theme of Nahum centers on the destruction of **Nineveh**, the capital of the Assyrians.

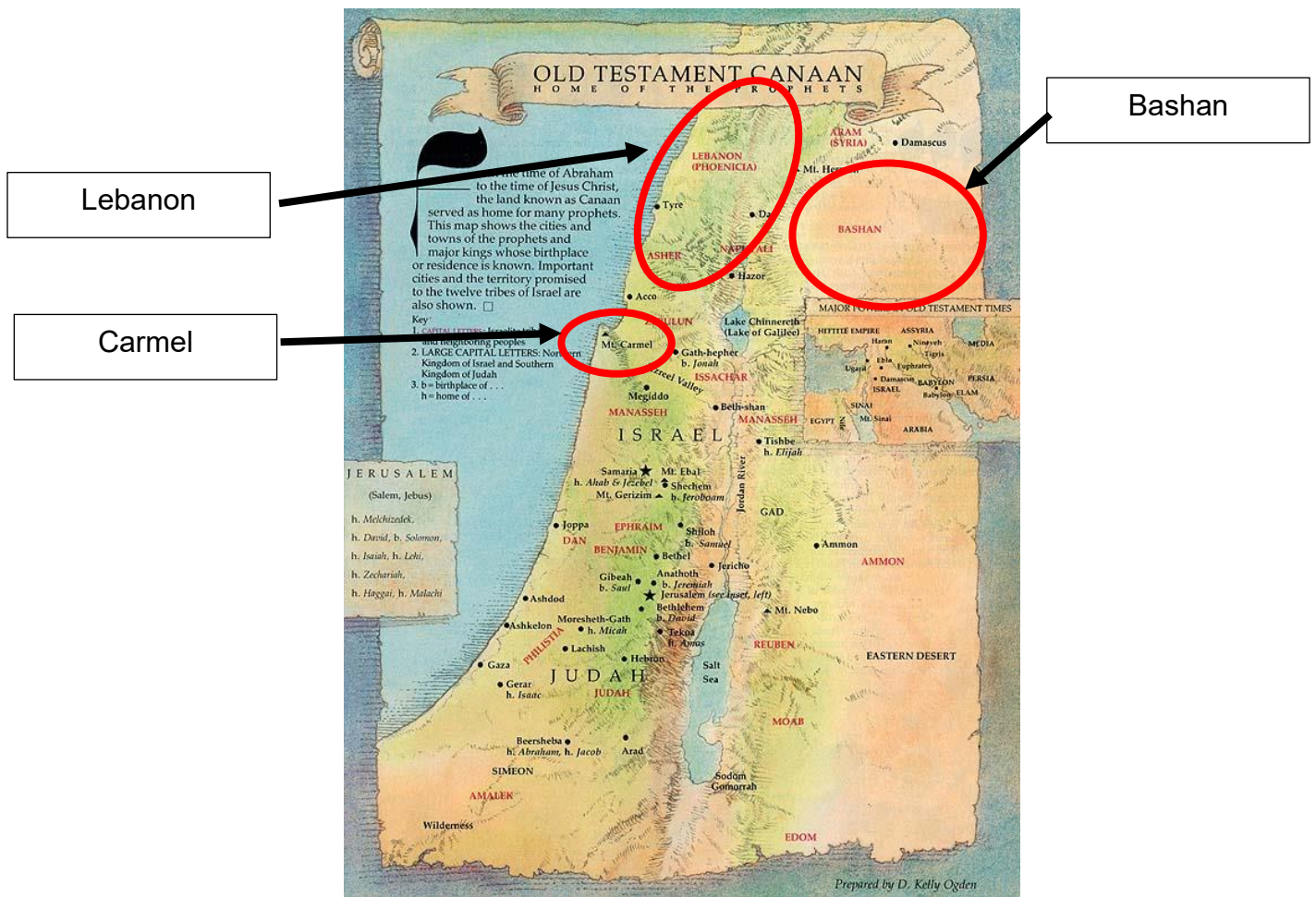


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- Nahum delivered his message prior to 612 B.C. He only addressed Judah since Samaria, the capital of Israel, had already fallen in 722 B.C.
- Most verses in Nahum reference Nineveh's **destruction**.
- It appears the Assyrian's repentance had a temporary effect.
- The Assyrians went on to destroy Samaria in **722 B.C.** and nearly captured Judah in 701 B.C.
- God destroyed Nineveh in **612 B.C.**
- "God is slow to anger and full of mercy" appears as an important theme in Nahum (Psalm 103:8; 145:8).

## Chapter 1:1-14-The Majesty of God

- God blesses both the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:48).
- Nahum states God will take vengeance on His adversaries (1:1-2).
- God does not want us to deliver **vengeance**. God will deliver vengeance at His time. (Romans 12:17-21).
- The Lord is **slow** to anger (1:3). This does not mean God has forgotten wrongdoing, wickedness, or evil behavior. It does not mean God will not avenge. However, God gives one every opportunity to repent before He incurs judgment.
- The lands of Bashan, Carmel, and Lebanon were known for their lush pastures, vineyards, and choice trees.



[https://site.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1990/01/old-testament-canaan-home-of-the-prophets?lang=eng&adobe\\_mc\\_ref=https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1990/01/old-testament-canaan-home-of-the-prophets](https://site.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1990/01/old-testament-canaan-home-of-the-prophets?lang=eng&adobe_mc_ref=https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1990/01/old-testament-canaan-home-of-the-prophets)

- God dried them up (1:4).
- God **remembered** Sennacherib, King of Assyria (Nahum 1:6), when he challenged the power God about 100 years earlier (2 Kings 18:35).
- Nahum referenced Sennacherib's evil plot against Jerusalem (1:11).
- This plot took place in 701. B.C.



[http://houseandsanctuary.blogspot.com/2013/02/bible-study-jonah-and-nahum-part-3-of-3\\_15.html](http://houseandsanctuary.blogspot.com/2013/02/bible-study-jonah-and-nahum-part-3-of-3_15.html)

- Nahum's judgment took place prior to 612 B.C.
- God brought **total** judgment to Nineveh, and it never rose to power again (1:9).
- God pronounced judgment upon Sennacherib (1:14; 2 Kings 19:37).

## **Chapter 1:15-3:19-Judgment Proclaimed and Predicted**

- One will often hear Nahum 1:15 quoted.
- People rejoiced at Nineveh's defeat.
- Nahum 2:1 referred to Cyaxares the Mede and Nabopolassar the Babylonian. These two conquered Nineveh in **612 B.C.**
- Notice the completeness and accuracy of Nahum's prophecy in describing the attack by the Medes and the Babylonians (2:1-13).
- Ryrie states, "The Medes and Babylonians made their shields red by painting them or overlaying them with **copper**; their tunics were scarlet; their chariots flashed with steel because they attached scythes at right angles to the axles. They also used cypress spears."
- The Assyrian king set up some kind of movable protective shield (2:5).

- Flood gates controlled the Khoser River that flowed through Nineveh. (2:6). Ryrie notes these gates were closed at the beginning of the siege which backed the water up into reservoirs. When the gates were opened a flood of water destroyed the palace.
- The Medes and Babylonians came with great **speed** (3:1-3).
- Nahum 3:11 relates the burial of Nineveh. The site of Nineveh stayed hidden until its discovery in 1842.
- Nahum predicted a **fire** would consume the city. Ryrie notes archaeology has confirmed a fire did help in destroying the city.
- God destroyed Nineveh, and many rejoiced over it's downfall (3:19).

### Sennacherib's Ancient Palace



<https://www.pinterest.com.mx/pin/414894184395312714/>

### Summary

- God does not forget injustice, nor does He refuse to punish injustice.
- God wants the job of avenging since His timing is always right.
- It took almost 100 years for God to bring judgment upon Nineveh even though Nineveh had already captured Samaria and had threatened to capture Jerusalem.
- God did not forget Nineveh's actions. However, He did wait for Nineveh to repent.
- At God's timing, judgment eventually came.
- Even though we may want to act against injustice and against those who harm us, we must let go and allow God to work at His discretion.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## Lesson Eight

1. We know little about Nahum and yet we have a book devoted to his prophecies.
  - A. Why didn't God tell us more about Nahum's life since we know so much about the lives of other Biblical writers?
  - B. Did God consider Nahum's message less important than other prophets? Explain.
  - C. Have you ever felt shelved or given less credit than you deserved? Explain how you felt. What can we learn about Nahum's life to give us encouragement?
  
2. Even though Nahum's book has few chapters, it delivers a powerful message concerning the destruction of the Assyrian Empire.
  - A. What lesson might we learn about God's ultimate judgment between good and evil.
  - B. How might this help when we are wronged or misunderstood?
  - C. Read Matthew 5:44. How can we apply this verse to our lives? Can you share an example when you prayed for someone who wronged you?
  
3. Read Romans 12:17-21.
  - A. How should we treat our enemies?
  - B. Read Luke 6:25. What will God do to those who love their enemies?
  - C. According to Luke 6:25, why does God want us to show love toward our enemies?