

# NAHUM

## Conversational Version

### The LORD's Anger Against Nineveh

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is an exclusive God  
that avenges with anger.

He carries out vengeance on his adversaries;  
he stores up anger for his enemies.

<sup>3</sup>He doesn't get mad quick,  
but he does exert his power;  
he doesn't let the guilty go free.

He displays his power in storms and tornadoes;  
clouds are dust beneath his feet.

**Nah 1:1-3**

<sup>4</sup>At his command seas and rivers dry up,  
Bashan and Carmel wither,  
Lebanon's blossoms wilt.

<sup>5</sup>In his presence, mountains quake and hills melt;  
earth trembles and its people perish.

**Nah 1:4-5**

<sup>6</sup>Who can withstand his indignation?  
Who can endure his furious anger?  
He pours out wrath like fire  
and cracks rocks in pieces.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is good, a fortress in times of trouble;  
he knows who takes refuge in him.

<sup>8</sup>But with an overwhelming flood,  
he brings his opponents to a complete end  
and chases his enemies into the dark.

**Nah 1:6-8**

<sup>9</sup>Whatever you're plotting against the LORD  
he'll put an end to;  
he doesn't need to take revenge twice.

<sup>10</sup>His enemies, like tangled thornbushes and staggering people,  
he'll completely burn up like stubble.

<sup>11</sup>Who is this counselor of yours  
that plots against the LORD with bad advice?

<sup>12</sup>This is what the LORD says,

*“Though strong and numerous,  
the Assyrians will perish and disappear.  
Though I’ve let them punish you before,  
I won’t let them do it again.*

<sup>13</sup>*I’ll break their yoke off your neck  
and tear their shackles off your feet.”*

**Nah 1:9-13**

<sup>14</sup>The LORD has issued an edict about you, *Assyria*:

*“No offspring will carry on your name;  
I’ll remove idol and image  
from the temples of your gods.  
I’ll get your grave ready  
because you’re contemptible.”*

**Nah 1:14**

<sup>15</sup>Over the mountains, a messenger is coming with good news,  
someone that’s announcing peace!

Celebrate your festivals, Judah; fulfill your vows;  
those wicked invaders will never attack you again.

I’ll completely destroy them.

**Nah 1:15**

### **Nineveh to Fall**

<sup>2:1</sup>Attackers are advancing to crush you, *Nineveh*.

Man the ramparts, guard the road,  
muster your forces, get ready.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is going to restore majesty to Jacob,  
splendor to Israel;

because plunderers have stripped it  
and cut the branches off its grapevines.

**Nah 2:1-2**

<sup>3</sup>The shields of the valiant flash red;  
the soldiers wear scarlet uniforms;  
the chariots glitter like steel  
as they muster into formation;  
they rattle their cypress spears.

<sup>4</sup>The chariots rush madly down the streets  
and race wildly around the squares.

They shine like torches,  
dashing here and there like lightning.

<sup>5</sup>*The king* orders his officers;

they scramble around in their haste  
and hurry to the wall to set up defenses.

<sup>6</sup>But their enemy tears open the gates of the river  
to undermine the palace.

<sup>7</sup>They strip it and loot it.  
Its young women moan like pigeons  
and beat their chests.

**Nah 2:3-7**

<sup>8</sup>Nineveh is like a leaking reservoir.  
“*Stop! Stop!* deserting residents!”  
but none of them even look back.

<sup>9</sup>Plunder the silver!  
Plunder the gold!  
Treasure without limit,  
wealth of all kinds!

<sup>10</sup>The city is desolate and in ruins!  
Hearts melt and knees knock!  
Loins throb in pain; faces turn pale!

**Nah 2:8-10**

<sup>11</sup>Where’s that lion’s den now,  
that feeding place for young lions,  
where the lion brought its prey,  
where its cubs stayed unthreatened,  
<sup>12</sup>where it tore off enough for its cubs  
and strangled prey for its lionesses?  
It filled its lair with prey, with mutilated meat.

<sup>13</sup>The LORD of Hosts says,  
“*I’m your enemy.  
I’ll burn your chariots in smoke,  
kill your young lions with a sword,  
and leave you with no nations to prey on.  
Your ambassadors won’t be bringing reports anymore.*”

**Nah 2:11-13**

### **Woe to Nineveh**

<sup>3:1</sup>Misfortune awaits bloody *Nineveh*,  
filled with lies and pillage  
and plunder without limit.

<sup>2</sup>*Do you hear* the crack of whips, rattling wheels,  
galloping horses, rushing chariots!?

<sup>3</sup>*Do you see* cavalry charging,  
 swords flashing, spears gleaming,  
 many slain, piles of corpses,  
 countless bodies,  
 and people stumbling over them!?

<sup>4</sup>*That's* all because of your continual prostitution,  
 that charming mistress of sorceries;  
 you sell nations by your prostitution,  
 countries by your sorceries.

<sup>5</sup>*"I'm your enemy,"* the LORD of Hosts says;  
*"I'll pull your skirts up over your heads,*  
*and show the nations your nakedness,*  
*the kingdoms your disgrace.*

<sup>6</sup>*I'll throw filth on you,*  
*make you disgusting,*  
*make a spectacle out of you!*

<sup>7</sup>*Everybody that sees you will back away and say,*  
*'Nineveh lies in ruins!*  
*Who's going to grieve over her?'*  
*Where will her comforters come from?'"*

**Nah 3:1-7**

<sup>8</sup>Are you any better than Thebes  
 that sat by the Nile  
 with water all around it,  
 with the river as its wall and rampart?

<sup>9</sup>Nubia was its strength,  
 Egypt too, with no limit;  
 Put and the Libyans allied with it.

<sup>10</sup>Yet *Thebes* was carried into captivity.  
 Its little ones were dashed to pieces  
 at the head of every street;  
 they cast lots for its honorable men  
 and tied up its leaders in chains.

**Nah 3:8-10**

<sup>11</sup>You'll get drunk too, Nineveh, go into a stupor,  
 and look for refuge from your enemy.

<sup>12</sup>Your fortresses are like fig trees with ripe fruit;  
 if you shake them, their figs fall into your mouth.

<sup>13</sup>Your *troops* are women!

Your gates stand wide open for your enemies;  
fires consume your bars.

**Nah 3:11-13**

<sup>14</sup>Draw water for your siege!

Strengthen your fortifications!

Get in the clay pits to tread mortar!

Put it in brick molds!

<sup>15</sup>But fire will burn you up;

the sword will cut you down

and eat you up like locusts.

Though you have multiplied like crawling locusts  
and propagated like grasshoppers,

<sup>16</sup>though your traders have come to outnumber the stars—

nevertheless, like crawling locusts

*your enemy* will strip your land and fly away.

<sup>17</sup>Though you guards are like grasshoppers

and your marshals resemble locust swarms

settling in stone walls on a cold day,

when the sun comes up, they fly away,

nobody knows where.

**Nah 3:14-17**

<sup>18</sup>Your shepherds are asleep, king of Assyria;

your nobles lie dead on the ground.

Your people have scattered to the mountains;

and there's nobody to round them up.

<sup>19</sup>There's no relief for your injury;

your wound won't heal.

Everybody that hears about your destruction

claps their hands.

Who hasn't come under your endless cruelty?

**Nah 3:18-19**