

NAHUM

Conversational Version

The LORD's Anger Against Nineveh

2The LORD is an exclusive God
that avenges with anger.

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

3He 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

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

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

Nah 1:4-5

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

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

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

Nah 1:6-8

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

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

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

12This 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.
¹³I’ll break their yoke off your neck
 and tear their shackles off your feet.”

Nah 1:9-13

¹⁴The 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

¹⁵Over 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

^{2:1}Attackers are advancing to crush you, *Nineveh*.
 Man the ramparts, guard the road,
 muster your forces, get ready.
²The 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

³The 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.

⁴The chariots rush madly down the streets
 and race wildly around the squares.
 They shine like torches,
 dashing here and there like lightning.

⁵The king orders his officers;

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

⁶But their enemy tears open the gates of the river
to undermine the palace.

⁷They strip it and loot it.

Its young women moan like pigeons
and beat their chests.

Nah 2:3-7

⁸Nineveh is like a leaking reservoir.

“Stop! Stop! deserting residents!”
but none of them even look back.

⁹Plunder the silver!

Plunder the gold!
Treasure without limit,
wealth of all kinds!

¹⁰IThe city is desolate and in ruins!

Hearts melt and knees knock!
Loins throb in pain; faces turn pale!

Nah 2:8-10

¹¹Where’s that lion’s den now,

that feeding place for young lions,
where the lion brought its prey,
where its cubs stayed unthreatened,

¹²where it tore off enough for its cubs

and strangled prey for its lionesses?

It filled its lair with prey, with mutilated meat.

¹³The 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

^{3:1}Misfortune awaits bloody Nineveh,
filled with lies and pillage
and plunder without limit.

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

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

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

⁵*"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.*

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

⁷*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

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

⁹*Nubia was its strength,
Egypt too, with no limit;
Put and the Libyans allied with it.*

¹⁰*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

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

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

¹³*Your troops are women!*

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

Nah 3:11-13

14Draw water for your siege!
Strengthen your fortifications!
Get in the clay pits to tread mortar!
Put it in brick molds!

15But 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,

16though your traders have come to outnumber the stars—
nevertheless, like crawling locusts
your enemy will strip your land and fly away.

17Though your 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

18Your 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.

19There'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