### Nahum

## Chapter 3

1‘O you city of blood  
 And of all that’s false and unrighteous:  
  
 ‘You’ll no longer be in charge of your game.  
 2For the sounds of whips, [you’ll hear],  
 Along with the rumble of [chariot] wheels…  
 The hot pursuits upon horses,  
 And the dust that they’ll raise with their wheels…  
 3The attacks of men riding steeds…  
 The shine of their swords and the flashing of shields.  
  
 ‘Great multitudes will be slaughtered;  
 For a downfall is coming to you.  
 Unnumbered nations will come there,  
 And from [looting and rape], they’ll tire.  
  
 4‘You’re a whore who once satisfied men,  
 And in the making of potions, you took the lead.  
 Then you sold your whoring to the nations,  
 And your potions, you sold to their tribes.  
  
 5‘So look… I’m the One who’s against you,’  
  
 ‘...says Jehovah the Almighty!  
  
 ‘I’ll uncover your backside,  
 And show all the nations your shame…  
 Other kingdoms will see your dishonor!  
  
 6‘Because of all your uncleanness,  
 I’ll bring what’s disgusting upon you…  
 I’ll use you as an example.  
  
 7‘Then, all who see you will leave you and say:  
  
 ‘O Nineveh, you great wretched one;  
 Who’ll now mourn over you?  
 And where can they search to send comfort?’  
  
 8‘So, tune up the strings of your lyres,  
 And prepare your potions for Amun  
 ([Your god] who inhabits the rivers);  
 For your walls are surrounded by water,  
 From which you’ve ruled all the way to the sea.  
  
 9‘Although ‘Although <span class="placename">Ethiopia‘Although <span class="placename">Ethiopia</span> and ‘Although <span class="placename">Ethiopia</span> and <span class="placename">Egypt‘Although <span class="placename">Ethiopia</span> and <span class="placename">Egypt</span> have served as your strength,  
 They’ll [be no help] when you’re taken away…  
 There’ll just be There’ll just be <span class="placename">LibyaThere’ll just be <span class="placename">Libya</span> and the There’ll just be <span class="placename">Libya</span> and the <span class="placename">SudanThere’ll just be <span class="placename">Libya</span> and the <span class="placename">Sudan</span>  
 That will come to your aid.  
  
 10‘Your [people] will be captured and taken to exile,  
 And your infant’s [heads] will be dashed on the walls.  
 For your honorable things, they’ll cast lots,  
 As your great men are tethered and bound.  
  
 11‘So, you’ll be provoked and get drunk,  
 As from your enemies, you seek shelter.  
 12But what will happen to those in your forts,  
 Is the same as what will happen to you.  
  
 ‘For, you’ll then be the fruit…  
 And when they start shaking the [tree],  
 You’ll fall into the mouths  
 Of those who’ve come to consume you.  
  
 13‘{Look!} Your enemies will view you as women,  
 So they’ll burn the bars off your gates  
 And open all doors throughout your land!  
  
 14‘Then you’ll have to draw water from your rivers  
 To rescue all of your burning forts!  
 So, you should tread mortar and mix it with straw…  
 Then make it stronger with bricks!  
 15For fire and the sword will destroy you…  
 They’ll consume you like locusts,  
 And by grasshoppers, you’ll be oppressed.  
  
 16‘Although you once grew your trade higher  
 Than all the stars in the skies;  
 Grasshoppers are coming to spread [over you]…  
 17Small locusts will leap and consume,  
 And cover your fences like frost.  
 Then, as the sun rises, they’ll just hop away…  
 And woe, because you won’t know where they’ve gone!  
  
 18‘And you, O ‘And you, O <span class="placename">Assyria‘And you, O <span class="placename">Assyria</span>’s king;  
 All of your shepherds have fallen asleep  
 And all of your mighty are resting.  
 Your people [have fled] to the mountains,  
 And no one is searching for them.  
 19Thus there’ll be no one to heal your destruction,  
 And your wounds will soon be inflamed.  
  
 ‘Yet, those hearing this message about you  
 Are all now clapping their hands…  
 For to them, you’ve done evil things.’

# Habakkuk

Habakkuk the record of the prophecy given to the Prophet Habakkuk.  
  
It foretells JeruSalem’s destruction by Babylon, written sometime around the middle 7th Century BCE.  
  
  
Most of this book is poetry  
  
Something that only a Bible translator would notice is when words are in the form of Hebrew poetry. There’s a definite cadence that can be seen in the original language. Therefore, because this is the chosen style of God, we’ve tried to recreate it as it was originally intended: in poetic verse.  
  
  
Why use poetry?  
  
Poetry must conform to a certain rhythm and style. These act as memory aids, helping you to recall the words, making it easier for messages to be spread via the most common communication method of the time: song.  
  
  
Who was talking?  
  
When translating the words of the Prophets, you can’t help but notice the constant changing personal pronouns (I, you, he, they, etc.) used in the text. It makes it very confusing to figure out exactly who’s talking.  
  
However, we now realize one reason for the confusion that’s usually overlooked: God didn’t speak to the Prophets personally. Rather, He sent His messages through a mediator, either referred to as a messenger (an angel), or sometimes as ‘The Word’ (which some interpret to mean Jesus).  
  
So there are actually three voices speaking:  
  
 1. That of the Prophet, who sometimes quotes himself,  
  
 2. That of the angelic messenger who’s bringing the message from God,  
  
 3. The words of God Himself (which we put in italics).  
  
  
How can we tell the difference? From the context, the pronouns, and the tenses:  
  
  
 1. When the Prophet speaks, he’s either clearly reporting what he said or did, or is simply saying what was happening.  
  
 2. When the angelic messenger speaks, he talks about God in the third person.  
  
 3 When God is speaking, all references to God are naturally spoken in the first person.  
  
  
Did we get it all right? Probably not, but it has been an honest attempt at doing so. If you think you’ve spotted a place where our choice is incorrect, please let us know and we’ll reconsider it.