

Nahum 1:12 – 2:6 + 14

Nahum (circa 720-714 B.C.) - his name signifies a comforter: for the ten tribes being carried away by the king of Assyria, this vision was to comfort them in their captivity.

The “burden” of Nineveh means the “sentence” or judgment against Nineveh

The Targum, and some other Jewish writings, recall that Jonah prophesied against this city about a hundred years previously, and the Ninevites repented. But now they no longer listen to God.

Nahum 1:12 - “Thus said the LORD; Though they be quiet (of unimpaired strength, peaceful and without fear), and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down (or, like conquered captives, shorn as with a razor), when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.”

Fulfilled - **2 Kings 19:32-35**

What’s the connection to the Torah readings?

Genesis 33:18 - “And Jacob came to Shalem, a city of Shechem...”

and later **Genesis 34:21** - “These men are peaceable (Shalem) with us; therefore let them dwell in the land, and trade therein”

Nahum 1:12 - “Thus said the LORD; Though they be quiet (Shalem)...”

Although “shalem” seemed like a place of peace, it turned into a location of slaughter when Simeon and Levi massacred the city of Shechem. So will the “shalem” of Nineveh and the Assyrians be turned into disaster for them.

Then Nahum gives a prophesy that looks toward the Gospel in the days of Messiah:

Nahum 1:15 - “Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked (Belial) shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.”

Isaiah 52:7 - “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!”

Romans 10:14-15 - “How then can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

A final comforting word for Jacob and Israel:

Nahum 2:2 (NET) - "For the LORD will restore the majesty of Jacob, as well as the majesty of Israel, though their enemies have plundered them and have destroyed their fields."

"majesty" is *ga'own* - "majesty, glory, splendor, sublimity," and linked to Jacob's "inheritance" in **Psalms 47:4**. Their fields in the land will be restored to them, but this is also looking toward Messianic times, when Christ possesses his people, the earthen vessels of his inheritance.

Nineveh's final doom is described in the last verse:

Nahum 2:13(14) - "Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard."