

### Israel and Assyria's Relationship

- Repentance from one generation to the next *isn't* automatic or guaranteed
- Each generation (every person) is responsible to respond rightly to God
- All unrighteousness is unrighteous to God, and everyone is unrighteous
- Some unrighteousness is especially wicked, and demands severe judgment

### God's Character

- God is *the* God over all the universe, the earth, and every nation
- He is *always* sovereign, providentially working to accomplish His plan
- Every nation is responsible, ultimately, to God, who grants them authority
- He *always* conducts Himself blamelessly with everything in His creation, including the nations, even using them to accomplish His plan

### Nahum's Significance

- God is *always* and forever consistent in who He is—MERCIFUL and JUST
- He is thus faithful to Himself and to His word, and will *always* fulfill His promise of mercy and justice
- We should see God as He really is—as He has revealed Himself to us, especially in His word, but also through human history—and *understand* that nothing is outside of His sovereignty
- We should *learn* from all of God's working in and rehearsing of the past, and *trust* Him in our present and for our future

**God is MERCIFUL**  
**God is JUST**

10.24.2021

Danny Capon, Pastor

The Book of Nahum – *Heading towards Justice*

No. 1 – Introduction

Nahum 1:1

Page 782 in the ESV pew Bible

### No. 1 – Introduction

1:1

Santa Claus

*Is God just a better version of Santa Claus?*

- ...a wrong view of God
- ...a wrong view of humans

Jonah and Nahum

Jonah: The MERCY of God—*sparing* people from what they deserve  
Nahum: The JUSTICE of God—*enforcing* on people what they deserve

- ...both deal with God's reputation
- ...both, with the city of Nineveh (Assyria) as the focal point
- ...both end on a question from God

The Book of Nahum

- Features

- 1 of the 12 'Minor Prophets' (7<sup>th</sup>)
- the 2<sup>nd</sup> book after *Jonah* (Jonah, Micah, Nahum)
- 3 chapters long (47 verses total), about 8 min. to read aloud
- more similar than *Jonah* to the other 'writing prophets' (oracle-driven)

ESV **Nahum 1:1** An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

"an **oracle**..."

"...concerning **Nineveh**."

"The book of the vision..."

"...of **Nahum** of Elkosh."

Nahum = *comfort* (comes from the same root of the word translated "relent" in Jonah)

Elkosh = unknown (but possibly, Capernaum = *city of Nahum*)

- Nahum isn't mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament
- a "Nahum" is listed in Jesus' genealogy (Luke 3:25)
- Little is known about Nahum the prophet

- From details found in the book of Nahum, Nahum ministered as a prophet between 663 BC and 612 BC, possibly writing the book of Nahum around **640 BC**:

- In 3:8-10, God refers to the downfall of Thebes, which took place in **663 BC**
- The entire book of Nahum predicts the downfall of Nineveh, which took place in **612 BC**

- Theme

### The Justice of God

- Nahum is an oracle *against* Nineveh
- It declares God's just **judgment** against Nineveh
- It vividly portrays the inevitable and impending judgment of God
- It functions thus as a *dire warning* for Nineveh and a *word of consolation* (comfort) for God's people who were oppressed by Nineveh (Assyria)

- Structure

- 1:1
- 1:2-15
- 2:1-13
- 3:1-19

- History

### Key Dates in Israel's History

- 1043 BC = Saul, king over Israel (one united kingdom)
- 931 BC = Israel divides into two kingdoms, North and South
- 722 BC = Northern kingdom, falls and taken captive (Assyria)
- 586 BC = Southern kingdom, falls and taken captive (Babylonia)

### 2 Kings 14:23-27

- Jeroboam II, king of Israel, reigned in Samaria and did evil (793-753 BC)
- **Jonah**, the prophet, ministered in Israel and went to Nineveh (780-**760 BC**)

.....

### 2 Kings 15:19

- Pul (**Tiglath-pileser III**), king of Assyria (745-727 BC) came against Israel
- Menahem, king of Israel (752-742 BC), gave Pul a thousand talents of silver
- He wanted Pul to help him confirm his hold on the royal power
- He exacted the silver from the wealthy men of Israel

### 2 Kings 15:29

- Tiglath-pileser III (Pul) came and took Israelites captive to Assyria
- This took place during the days of Pekah, king of Israel

### 2 Kings 16:7 (See also, 2 Chronicles 28:16; Isaiah 7:3)

- Ahaz, the king of Judah (735-715 BC), did not do what was right
- Pekah (Israel) and Rezin (Syria) came up against Ahaz (Judah)
- Ahaz sent for help from Tiglath-pileser III
- He took silver from the house of the LORD and gave it as a present to him

### 2 Kings 17:3

- **Shalmaneser V**, king of Assyria (727-722 BC), came against Israel
- Hoshea, king of Israel (732-722 BC), became his vassal and paid tribute
- But he stopped paying tribute and sought help from Egypt
- Shalmaneser bound Hoshea and carried people away to Assyria

**722 BC** Israel (Northern kingdom) falls, taken captive (Assyria)  
**17:7-23**, especially v. 13, explains *why* Israel fell (cf. 18:9-12)

### 2 Kings 18:7 (See also, 2 Chronicles 32:1; Isaiah 36:1-37:38)

- Hezekiah, king of Judah (729-686 BC), did what was right and trusted God
- **Sennacherib**, king of Assyria (705-681 BC), came against Judah (**701 BC**)
- Hezekiah initially gave him all the silver from the house of the LORD
- He then trusted in the LORD and God delivered Jerusalem (185,000)

### 2 Kings 21:9 (See also, 2 Chronicles 33:11)

- Manasseh, king of Judah (695-642 BC), did great evil
- God promised thus to send great disaster on Jerusalem and Judah
- He brought the Assyrian army to capture him and bring him to Babylon
- Manasseh cried out to God and He brought him back to Jerusalem

.....

### A Few Historical Observations

- Jonah prophesied against Nineveh around 760 BC, and Nahum prophesied against Nineveh around 640 BC—about **120 years apart**
- Jonah prophesied against Nineveh about **40 years before** the fall of Israel (722 BC), and Nahum prophesied against Nineveh about **30 years before** the fall of Nineveh (612 BC)
- From the prophesy of Jonah, to the prophesy of Nahum, **6 different kings** reigned over Judah (7 different kings reigned over Israel)—about **4-5 generations**
- From the prophesy of Jonah, to the prophesy of Nahum, **8 different kings** reigned over Assyria—about **4-5 generations**

**Ashurbanipal** (669-633 BC)  
**Nahum** (640 BC)