

Nahum

A Man of Comfort—A Prophet with a Clear Message

Background

Nahum's name appears only once in the OT (1:1) It also appears in the genealogy of Joseph in Luke 3:25. Literally Nahum means comfort or consolation. Nahum lives during the 7th century B.C., an era in which Assyria is dominant. The cruelty of this era is evident and clearly described by Nahum. An inclusion exists in 1:11 and 3:19 forming "bookends" to the whole book uniting the theme of the prophecy. While the book focuses on the coming judgment of God against Assyria, the real theme is the almighty rule of God over all peoples, nations and cultures.

Outline

- I. An Avenger is our Lord 1:1-11
- II. The Wicked One shall exist no more 1:12-15
- III. The Lion of Assyria will be routed 2:1-13
- IV. The Harlot will be exposed and disgraced 3:1-7
- V. The Invincible will be destroyed 3:8-13
- VI. Thank God we're free at last 3:14-19

Cardinal Thought

God created all people in His image; a person cannot treat others inhumanely and hope to escape God's punishment. God's law is based on His nature and personal character; therefore holiness, righteousness, and justice are expected of all rulers, potentates and nations regardless of whether they believe in the Living God or not.

Main Themes

1. God's activity in the created world is based on His character.
2. God really is in charge of human affairs.
3. Human injustice cannot escape the radar of a righteous and holy God.
4. Human attempts at invincibility are ultimately revealed as foolish.
5. The Hope of human affairs is the Victory of the Lord of Hosts.