

Nahum chapter 1

How is God depicted in the first portion of Nahum? Is verse 2 consistent with verse 7? What do we learn of the nature and character of God?

What irony is exposed in verse 9 (remember Jonah)?

The other prophets have repeatedly enjoined the people of Israel to ensure justice in their relations with others. How is that theme reflected here?

Nahum chapter 2

Who is being addressed in verses 1 and 2? Is this audience different than for the book as a whole?

Verses 3-13 describe in colorful language the final destruction of Ninevah; was Nahum there to witness it? Did it really happen just that way?

Why all the references to lions in the final three verses?

Nahum chapter 3

What charges are laid against Ninevah; why is God so upset with them? [1, 4, 19]

Excavations of the site of Ninevah over the past 150 years have revealed that there were unburied bodies left lying in the city gates at the time of the city's destruction [3]; and that the city walls were built of stone to a height of about 20 feet, but later there was another 20 feet or so of mud-brick added to the tops of them. [14]

Why? Why warn Ninevah? Wouldn't a surprise attack be better? Why the graphic descriptions of destruction? Was this book really written to warn the king of Assyria [3:18; 1:15]?

Is Nahum (and/or Judah) guilty of *schadenfreude*? [19]

Next week: Habakkuk chapters 1, 2, and 3.

1:9 – Why will you plot against the LORD? He wreaks utter destruction: No adversary opposes Him twice! *JPS 1985*