

"THE PATRIOTIC PROPHET"  
(NAHUM)

Nahum's book is a terrific arraignment of a nation that was seeking glory by war and oppression. God still hates brutality, violence and wrong.

I. THE TIMES:

1. Two reigns of pagan kings of world power had been fairly peaceful ones and had built great and beautiful empires. Upon the death of the last of the two, the successor was a man of war. He began a campaign to conquer the world.
2. Nineveh fell and was totally leveled.
3. Jeremiah and Zephaniah were preaching in Jerusalem.
4. There was a weak spiritual revival in Judah.

II. THE MAN:

1. "Nahum" means "consolation" or "compassion".
2. Nahum's exact residence is unknown.
3. He was very patriotic and had a deep hatred for those seeking to invade and make captive Judah.
4. Nahum had a vivid imagination and used words to paint what he saw.
5. His sense of the holiness of God and the acts of unholy men outraged him.

III. THE BOOK:

1. The Theme: Impending doom on Nineveh and vengeance belonged to God.
2. The Style: He describes the swift, relentless sweep of the enemy with vividness of color, beauty, poetic imagery, and dramatic description.
3. The Outline: Several outlines could be used:
  1. A sublime picture of God (chapter 1).  
A graphic picture of the fall of Nineveh (chapter 2).  
A statement of the reasons for the utter ruin of the city (chapter 3).
  2. The verdict of vengeance (chapter 1).  
The vision of vengeance (chapter 2).  
The vindication of vengeance (chapter 3).
  3. Judgment of Nineveh declared (chapter 1).  
Judgment of Nineveh described (chapter 2).  
Judgment of Nineveh defended (chapter 3).

IV. Lessons of Value:

1. God does have a limit to His patience.
2. Even though it does not seem like it all times, God is in active control of all the world.
3. "The wages of sin is death" for nations, as well as individuals.
4. God is angered by arrogance that causes senseless destruction of life and property.
5. A nation or an individual whose life is built on pride, cruelty, force, and selfishness, cannot hope to have friends when calamity comes.
6. In the day of distress and anguish, people who do not have a strong faith in God will suffer untold sufferings.
7. Often in God's eternal purpose for the world, a wicked people must be destroyed.