

7 NAHUM & MODERN TIMES – OCT 1997

Article by Brian H. Butler B.A., D.O., F.A.S.K.

Class of '64 Graduate & former Faculty Member of Ambassador College, England.

These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth

Nahum, which means Consolation. He was in a trance experiencing a vision, prophesying in the 8th Century B.C. concerning the downfall of Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. Assyria was the world dominating political kingdom of the day, whereas Babylon was the dominating religious system and kingdom of that era, and which has controlled the world throughout history.

Assyria was ruling a vast empire of almost all the countries of the Middle East.

Nahum, as the other prophets do, uses the past tense to describe the future, and this is known as the “prophetic past” tense because God knows that His prophecies are bound to occur exactly as He foretells.

1 The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

Nahum was from Elkoshite which cannot be identified today. Here, in a trance, Nahum has a vision of the “burden” which is the prophecy he has from God, the heavy weight of responsibility to pass on, which he has to write down.

2 God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth; the Lord revengeth, and is furious; the Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

God is angry with His enemies, Assyria.

3 The Lord is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

These areas are all in the North of Israel.

5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned **at his presence**, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

This is almost the same language as Revelation, when Christ returns, so when is this occurring? At His presence!

6 Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

7 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

In spite of this fury, the Lord God is good. This is talking about the Great Tribulation, and that some will experience God as a stronghold of safety at that time.

8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

9 What do ye imagine against the Lord? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

An utter end of the world's system of government, both civil and religious, and this is not going to happen twice! So this has never occurred in history as the Babylonian system still rules today.

10 For while they be folden together as thorns, (to be burned) and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

This is also hearkening back to Noah's time, as shortly after the flood, Genesis 10 tells of the list of nations, and Ham's son Nimrod, who who became the world's first despot, was later deified, and became Orion, which is the largest constellation in the heavens which straddles the North and South of the equatorial regions, and in that sense affects the whole earth. Orion (Nimrod the Hunter **before** {in place of} the Lord) has the 'dogstar' Sirius with him hunting in the sky.

This is foretelling the end of the system foretold in Daniel, and also in Revelation. This was the prophecy that Jonah really wanted to give, he wanted God to prophesy the end of Assyria through him, but God had a

different plan in mind for him, He wanted Assyria to be given an opportunity to repent first.

Jonah and Peter both rebelled against God's wishes in a way, and now Nahum fits into the same picture. Revelation gives the bones of this, and Nahum in relation to the same proclamation of the Gospel and adds a little flesh on the bones so to speak.

Side B

The flood, the Exodus, Christ's miracles were all well known interventions by God, and here another is being described when once again He will intervene in mankind's affairs, this time in Person!

Nineveh was overthrown in the 612 B.C., then the Persian, Greek, and Roman empires ruled, and on to today where the Babylonian System both political and religious still holds sway over the entire world. The **utter** destruction of the Babylonian system has NEVER occurred in history. It's destruction is pending, to occur at the 2nd coming of Christ!

Some will be protected. Nahum 1:7 7 The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Now here comes the Beast of Revelation.

11 There is one come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the Lord, a wicked counsellor.

12 Thus saith the Lord; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

At last here is the promise that God has made through time, that He will afflict Israel and Judah no more.

13 For now will I break his yoke from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.

14 And the Lord hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown (broadcast, scattered – Hosea's son Jezreel): out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile.

Israel and Judah are going to have all their pagan and idolatrous activities brought to a screeching halt. That certainly has not happened yet!!

15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of Him (Jesus Christ) that bringeth good tidings (the Gospel), that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

This is a quote of what is going to occur when Christ returns and His feet touch the Mount of Olives, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God, and peace on this earth. Jews and Israel will once again perform their solemn feasts.

Nahum 2:1 He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.
2 For the Lord hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

3 The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.

4 The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

5 He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared.

6 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved.

All this, Nahum 2:1-6, is written in the masculine gender to record the warlike political happenings, but this now changes to the feminine gender.

In the Bible, God uses the feminine gender to refer to His people, (as His wife for instance, and Ecclesia is also feminine). God uses the feminine for His church and people, and also for those who are not His, but are Satan's false churches and religious organizations. We remember that it is the 'woman', the great whore, that rides the Beast.

7 And Huzzab (female) shall be led (discovered for what she is) away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering (beating in anguish) upon their breasts.

8 But Nineveh is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back.

9 Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture.

10 She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

11 Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid?

12 The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin.

But where is all this lionine power now? Where has it vanished to?

13 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.

You are finished with having any form of power Assyria and Babylon!

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not;

2 The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the prancing horses, and of the jumping chariots.

3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:

Like in Revelation in the valley of Hinnom after the battle of Armageddon.

4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

The world thought their 'system' was so beautiful, so much to be loved and admired, the mistress of witchcrafts, all the pagan and idolatrous ways of the world, that 'sold' the nations an attractive package which they 'bought', and led families, the ordinary people into the whoredoms of idolatry (statues, crosses, relics, steeples,) and the trappings of paganism like Easter and Christmas as well as 'secret societies', and foul practices of paedophilia.

5 Behold, I am against thee, saith the Lord of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

6 And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock.

7 And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

Nations, peoples, families will recoil in horror when the reality of what they have been involved with hits them.

8 Art thou better than populous No, that was situate among the rivers, that had the waters round about it, whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was from the sea?

9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her strength, and it was infinite; Put and Lubim were thy helpers.

10 Yet was she carried away, she went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

From the Northern to the Southern parts of the system, all will be utterly destroyed.

11 Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.

12 All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, thy people in the midst of thee are women: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto thine enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.

14 Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brickkiln.

However strong the bricks, you are wasting your time, it will all be destroyed and come to nothing.

15 There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away.

17 Thy crowned are as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, but when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they are.

Your ministers and those you look to religiously are asleep!

18 Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them.

19 There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit (noise) of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon **whom** hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

Nobody, everyone apart from God's elect were trapped in the system.

So that is that. That is the end of the Babylonian system that was the world as we knew it. Now Christ is in charge. Now the Gospel will be breached, the Kingdom established, and peace will engulf the world.

Amen to that!