

The Bible - Week 20 (May 23rd)

Eric Swanson / General

Nahum + Zephaniah

Author: Nahum of Elkosh & Zephaniah, the great-great-grandson of King Hezekiah.

Date: Nahum is before the fall of Nineveh in 612 BCE and after the fall of Therese in 663 BCE. Zephaniah was speaking in the time of King Josiah but before the reforms so likely 640-621 BCE.

Audience: Nahum wrote his prophecy to Nineveh and Judah, both were different cities with different issues. Zephaniah spoke to the southern kingdom.

Reason: Nahum spoke of judgement to Nineveh and comfort to Judah. Zephaniah is a common prophet that spoke of a Day of the Lord that people needed to prepare for.

Theme: The fall of Nineveh, Zephaniah wanted people to seeking God's righteousness before the Day of the Lord fell upon them.

Key Verse:

Nahum 1:14a CEB

The LORD has commanded concerning you:

You will have no children

to carry on your name.

I will remove carved idol and cast
image from the house of your gods;

I will make your grave,

for you are worthless.

Zephaniah 2:3 CEB

Seek the LORD, all you humble

of the land who practice his justice;

seek righteousness;

seek humility.

Maybe you will be hidden

on the day of the LORD's anger.

Sections: The Lord vs Nineveh (CH1), Judgement of Nineveh (Ch2), Reason for Judgement (Ch3) / Judgement against Judah (Ch1) Judgement against the nations (Ch 2-3:8) Promise of Restoration (Ch 3:9-20)

Key Words: I am against you, Evil, Nineveh Nations, Daughters of Zion.

Basic Intro: Like Jonah 150 years of so before Nahum, he

speaks judgement against Nineveh and has a different outcome. Zephaniah spoke a warning to the southern remnant that wasn't yet in exile.

Questions for Discussion:

- **In this book there is no way out for Nineveh, since every other book always offered a way out, what does this do to your thoughts on God?**
- **How do you see God working when a place seems out so out of sorts like Nineveh?**
- **In Zephaniah, why do you think that the poorest in the land were more inclined to repent when facing the Day of the Lord?**
- **What does the Lord promise fo the future of Israel in Zephaniah?**