

THE BOOK OF

Nahum

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

The End Of Powerful Wickedness

OPENING QUESTION

Who or what do you consider to be an oppressive power today?

READ Nahum 1:1-15.

1. Why did God include a book in the Bible about Nineveh/Assyria?

- A. It was a mistake. They weren't God's people; the Israelites were.
- B. Early versions of the Old Testament omitted Nahum.
- C. I'm not sure I've ever read the book of Nahum.
- D. God is the God of all nations (*Genesis 12:3*).
- E. The Bible is a book for all nations.
- F. The book of Jonah is about Nineveh, too.
- G. Consider other prophets (*Is 13-23; Jer 46-51; Ezek 25-32; Dan 2, 7*).
- H. God used other nations to punish Israel's disobedient descendants.
- I. Other.

2. Is God angry or patient; a fiery flood or a refuge?

- A. Angry.
- B. Patient.
- C. Fiery flood.
- D. Refuge.
- E. It depends on who you are.
- F. It depends on what you do.
- G. It depends on when and where you were born.
- H. This sounds a lot like *Romans 1:18-3:26*.
- I. Other.

3. For what was Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, known?

- A. The dominant country of their time.
- B. The duration of their dominance—about 400 years.
- C. Their cruelty to their enemies.
- D. Jonah preached to them 150 years before Nahum.
- E. Nineveh had been repentant and humble at one time.
- F. Used by God to punish God's people (*2 Kings 17:7-23*).
- G. A great place to vacation.
- H. Pride, drunkenness, and idolatry.
- I. Other.

4. How is God both just and merciful.

- A. He's not.
- B. I prefer God's justice.
- C. I prefer God's mercy.
- D. God is both just and merciful.
- E. You can't have both; you have to lean one way or the other.
- F. God holds his own people accountable, and others, too.
- G. God forgives—way more than we do, maybe more than he should.
- H. Other.

5. What are some ways Nahum parallels Isaiah 51-52 and Isaiah 10:5-19?

- A. Good news from over the mountains (*Nah 1:15; Is 52:7; Rom 10:15*).
- B. No more enemy invasion/walking over (*Nah 1:15; Is 51:23*).
- C. Oppressors receive God's wrath (*Nah 1:2; Is 51:20*).
- D. Oppressors will be oppressed (*Nah 1:12-14; Is 51:22-23*).
- E. Liberation from shackles and chains (*Nah 1:13; Is 52:2*).
- F. Addressed to Judah/Zion/Jerusalem (*Nah 1:15; Is 52:1-2, 7*).
- G. Both were written at the height of Assyria's ruthless dynasty.
- H. Other.

6. Who or what seems too powerful today to fail or fade away?

- A. My country.
- B. My church.
- C. Big business.
- D. Technology.
- E. Sports.
- F. Entertainment.
- G. Death and taxes.
- H. Evil.
- I. Other.

7. How does the God of Nahum compare to your current understanding and experience with God?

8. Where do you see God's power today? Where do you see his patience? What about God's justice and mercy—where do you see those today?

Nahum 2

OPENING QUESTION

When have you seen the downfall of a person, team, company, or country?

READ Nahum 2:1-13.

1. Based on verses 1-2, would you rather be part of Nineveh or Israel?

- A. Nineveh.
- B. Israel.
- C. Neither.
- D. Both, but at different times.
- E. I'd rather be part of defending my people.
- F. I'd rather be part of rebuilding.
- G. I don't want to be involved in fighting at all.
- H. I don't think I have a choice.
- I. Other.

2. Why does Nineveh's fall seem so certain when it hadn't happened yet?

- A. God's message is certain, even if it hasn't happened yet.
- B. God's promises happen on God's timetable, not our timetable.
- C. God's message is irreversible.
- D. This is intended to instill fear in Nineveh.
- E. This is intended to instill courage and hope in Israel.
- F. Nineveh's long, powerful, cruel reign couldn't last.
- G. Nineveh was already starting to crumble.
- H. God threatened Nineveh so it would repent like it had in Jonah's day.
- I. Other.

3. What caused Nineveh's fall?

- A. God/Yahweh/the LORD.
- B. Nineveh's false gods.
- C. Pride.
- D. Cruelty.
- E. Wealth from plunder.
- F. Overconfidence.
- G. Accumulated enemies turned against Nineveh.
- H. No country stays in power forever.
- I. Other.

4. Which nations were once very powerful and then humbled?

- A. Egypt.
- B. Assyria.
- C. Babylon.
- D. Medo-Persia.
- E. Greece.
- F. Rome.
- G. USA.
- H. Other.

5. How does this message compare to the one for “Babylon” (Rev 17-18)?

- A. Their reign eventually ends.
- B. God brings about their downfall.
- C. They bring about their own downfall.
- D. It’s all about power.
- E. Ego seems to be a problem.
- F. Wealth doesn’t last.
- G. Sexual promiscuity turns on itself.
- H. It’s all about worship.
- I. Other.

6. What is your role in messages of doom like what Nahum gave?

- A. Spread the word.
- B. You will finally be saved from your enemy/enemies.
- C. Trust God.
- D. Share hope, faith, and love right now.
- E. Worship God.
- F. Remove yourself from worldly power.
- G. Proclaim judgment.
- H. Practice mercy.
- I. Other.

7. Do messages like this apply only to nations, or do they apply to individuals? Do these messages apply to churches/denominations?

8. What does Nahum’s message have to do with the world in which you live now?

No Chance

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever seen a bully put in its place?

READ Nahum 3:1—19.

1. What makes a nation so attractive that others will move there?

- A. Opportunities.
- B. Leaving war and bloodshed where you live now.
- C. Financial improvement.
- D. A better government.
- E. Faith/Religion.
- F. Physical resources.
- G. Education.
- H. Giving up on one's current country and situation.
- I. Other.

2. What could God uncover about your nation that would embarrass it?

- A. Government corruption.
- B. Financial greed.
- C. Repeated dishonesty.
- D. Religious coercion.
- E. Military abuses.
- F. Bullying other nations.
- G. Conspiring with Satanic forces.
- H. Unfair treatment of different racial groups.
- I. Other.

3. Who would rejoice at the destruction of your country?

- A. Communist countries.
- B. Capitalistic countries.
- C. Muslims.
- D. Atheists.
- E. Religious extremists.
- F. Countries that have been bullied by your country.
- G. Scavenger countries.
- H. Dictators.
- I. Other.

4. What mighty nations have fallen?

- A. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- B. Rome.
- C. Egypt.
- D. Germany.
- E. Babylon.
- F. Israel.
- G. The Ottoman Empire.
- H. Other.

5. What should your nation do to prepare for a potential overthrow?

- A. Budget more money for the military.
- B. Seek more allies.
- C. Increase police and anti-terrorist forces.
- D. Focus on cyber attacks.
- E. Turn to prayer.
- F. Increase taxes.
- G. Make the economy even more international than it is.
- H. Hoard more.
- I. Give away more.
- J. Other.

6. What do you pray about regarding your nation?

- A. For leaders to lead well and with wisdom.
- B. Freedom for those who suffer oppression.
- C. Peace and safety—for me and for everyone else.
- D. A return to the country's core religious values and principles.
- E. Increased wealth.
- F. That my political candidate(s) will win.
- G. A change in my country's financial priorities.
- H. Religious renewal.
- I. Improved equality.
- J. Other.

7. What part does God play in your nation?

8. Would God ever destroy your nation? Why or why not?

