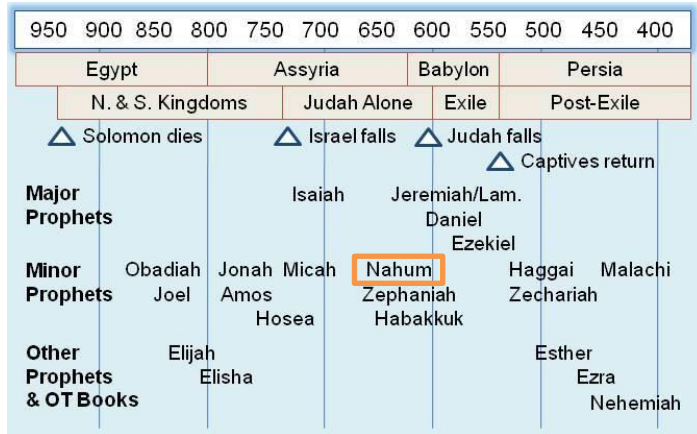


**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 March	Nahum 1-3	Don't Mess with God
2) 08 March	Zephaniah 1-2	Everyone is Accountable
3) 15 March	Zephaniah 3	Our Great Salvation
4) 22 March	Obadiah 1	Compassion for Lost People
5) 29 March	Zechariah 1-12	The Promised Messiah
6) 05 April	Luke 24:1-12	The Declaration
7) 12 April	Luke 24:19-35	The Promise Fulfilled
8) 19 April	Zechariah 13-14	A Refined People
9) 26 April	Habakkuk 1-2	Hard Questions, Hard Answers
10) 03 May	Habakkuk 3	Awestruck
11) 10 May	Haggai 1-2	Seek God First
12) 17 May	Malachi 1	True Hope
13) 24 May	Malachi 2	Faithful
14) 31 May	Malachi 3	A Pure People



**INTRODUCTION**

- The Book of Nahum is a poem for easy remembrance, written prior to the Babylonian exile, to be a constant reminder of God's attributes and what God will do to unrepentant sinners
- Nineveh.** The ruins of ancient Nineveh lie beneath the modern city of Mosul, Iraq
  - In 2003, the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, a 21,000-strong force under General David Petraeus, controlled Mosul. After the U.S. departure, ISIS captured the city in June 2014 and still controls it, but it is being bombed regularly by U.S.-led coalition forces
- Like the Book of Jonah, Nineveh has center stage in Nahum; and the nation it represented was noted for cruelty to conquered peoples... **Amos 1**
  - They plundered, raped, pillaged, and committed genocide
  - They deported and enslaved entire populations
  - They humiliated & demoralized conquered peoples by parading them naked; and often executed them mercilessly and cruelly
- God offered Nineveh a chance to repent under Jonah a 160 years before, but her repentance was short-lived
- Question of the Day:** Is "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin" biblical?

Passage	Comments
<b>Other Passages on What God Hates, Abhors, Despises, and Loathes</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Leviticus 20:23</b> God <b>abhors</b> the 7 nations that Israel displaced for their sins – for their murders, idolatries, child sacrifices, adulteries, homosexuality, incest, and bestiality</li> <li><b>Leviticus 26:30</b> God will <b>abhor</b> Israel if they commit similar sins</li> <li><b>Psalms 5:5</b> God <b>hates</b> all workers of iniquity</li> <li><b>Psalms 5:6</b> God <b>abhors</b> the bloody and deceitful man</li> <li><b>Psalms 11:5</b> God <b>hates</b> the wicked and him that loves violence</li> <li><b>Psalms 53:5</b> God put Israel to shame, because He <b>despised</b> them</li> <li><b>Proverbs 6:16-19</b> God <b>hates</b> 7 behaviors: 1) A proud look; 2) a lying tongue; 3) hands that shed innocent blood; 4) a heart that devises wicked things; 5) feet that run to mischief; 6) A false witness; and 7) he that sows discord among brethren</li> <li><b>Hosea 9:15</b> God <b>hated</b> Israel for their wickedness, and said, "I will love them no more"</li> <li><b>Zechariah 11:8</b> God's soul <b>loathes</b> Israel's leaders, and their soul also abhorred Him</li> <li><b>Malachi 1:3 / Romans 9:13</b> God loved Jacob, but <b>hated</b> Esau for his sins</li> </ul>
1:8-15	<p><b>Nineveh is Afflicted – Israel's Affliction is Removed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v8. "overflowing flood" could be taken literally or figuratively. Historical evidence suggests God used both a flood of water and a flood of soldiers to overrun Nineveh. Ancient Nineveh had 30 miles of aqueducts running to it and through it</li> <li>v12. "I will afflict you no longer" – God's wrath upon Israel is coming to a conclusion</li> <li>v15. <b>Principle to Live By:</b> Pay your vows for things to go well – Never make rash promises to a mighty God... <b>Ecc 5:4-5</b></li> </ul>
2:1-13	<p><b>Israel Restored – Nineveh Destroyed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v2. "The Lord will restore the splendor of Jacob" – Better days are coming</li> <li>v10. "Hearts are melting and knees knocking" – Similar to last days when men's hearts will fail because of fear. Lk 21:26</li> </ul>
3:1-19	<p><b>Lesson Learned – Don't Mess with God's People</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v10. Nineveh's "small children were dashed to pieces" – Reminiscent of Psalms 137:9 "...blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones against the rock"</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS**

- The phrase "Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin" falls in the same category as "God helps those who help themselves" – Those clichés contain some semblance to truth, but they do not factor in the whole counsel of God
  - It's true God loves the repentant sinner, BUT He hates the unrepentant
  - Though God patiently waits for the wicked to repent as He is a merciful God, and He loved the world (elect and non-elect) to send His Son to be a sacrifice for their sins, yet His judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy (aka, the unrepentant) ..... **James 2:13**
  - BUT, we are not to go "ISIS" on anyone. Final retribution is God's job.
  - We are to exhibit God's love & mercy to encourage sinners to repent

**NEXT WEEK: Zephaniah 1-2.** We will see that man's wickedness will one day force God to remove man & beast, birds & fish from the face of the earth – BUT "perhaps" the righteous will be hidden from the Lord's anger

Passage	Comments
Nahum 1:1-7	<p><b>God will Restore Israel and Devastate Her Enemies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>v2. Attribute #1</b> – God is a jealous God</li> <li><b>Attribute #2</b> – God is an avenging God</li> <li><b>Attribute #3</b> – God is relentless</li> <li><b>Attribute #4</b> – God is a God of wrath</li> <li><b>v3. Attribute #5</b> – God is slow to anger (lit. "length of two nostrils" – Hebrew is a picturesque language, so picture flaring of the nostrils when angered over time)</li> <li><b>Attribute #6</b> – God is a God of great power</li> <li><b>vv3-5. Attribute #7</b> – God controls the weather, seas, and earthquakes for His purpose.....cf <b>Amos 3:6</b></li> <li><b>v7. Attribute #8</b> – God is good (morally and skillfully)</li> <li><b>Attribute #9</b> – God is a refuge in times of trouble</li> <li><b>Attribute #10</b> – God cares for those who trust in Him</li> </ul>

