



Introduction: *Before we get into the Book of Nahum, picture yourself among the Palm Sunday crowds. You are hailing Jesus as a king. Waving your palm branch and shouting your hosannas, you welcome him into the city of Jerusalem. But what do you really need this "king" to do for you? How many truly recognized Jesus as their Savior from sin? And how do these questions fit in with the message of the Book of Nahum?*



Listen to Nahum [00:7:34]

Who is speaking? Who is being addressed? Purpose of the message?

Nahum 1:1 "A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite."

- 2 Chronicles 33 gives us the "back story" to the Book of Nahum. Note that Nahum is likely one of **"the seers"** mentioned in v.18 and comment on the spiritual state of Judah and the king at this time.
- Imagine you're King Manasseh in shackles under Assyrian rule when someone from a Christian prison ministry hands you a copy of the Book of Nahum. What sections might be of comfort to you and why?

More About Nineveh [Video] - "At its zenith the city itself was over three miles long and a miles and half wide. Great Nineveh--the city plus its suburbs--was about 30 miles long and 10 miles wide. 120,000 people lived in the city. Many more lived in the surrounding villages. Sennacharib built the wall around the city to a height of 100 feet in places. It was broad enough to hold four chariots driven side by side. In the 8 miles of wall that extended around the city, there were 15 major gates, each guarded by a huge stone statues of bulls. A moat 150 feet wide had to be filled in before reaching Nineveh's main wall. Sennacharib also built 30 mile-long channels from streams up in the mountains down to the Khosr River that brought fresh drinking water to the city. He also dammed the Khosr River some distance above Nineveh to the east, saving water there for use during the dry season (**cf. Nahum 2:6**). At one place--in order to get water across a ravine--he constructed an aqueduct over 300 yards long and 24 yards wide. It contained half a million tons of rock. Within the walls Sennacharib built a palace surrounded by 9,880 feet of sculptured stone walls depicting his many military victories. There were parks throughout the city and a zoo populated with exotic animals from his kingdom and beyond. Archaeologists also discovered a huge royal library stored over 10,000 separate texts on 16,000 clay tablets. Most of the wealth to develop the city of Nineveh in these ways came from tribute exacted from foreign nations under their influence (like Israel & Judah).



Nahum is a sequel of sorts to another book of the Bible:

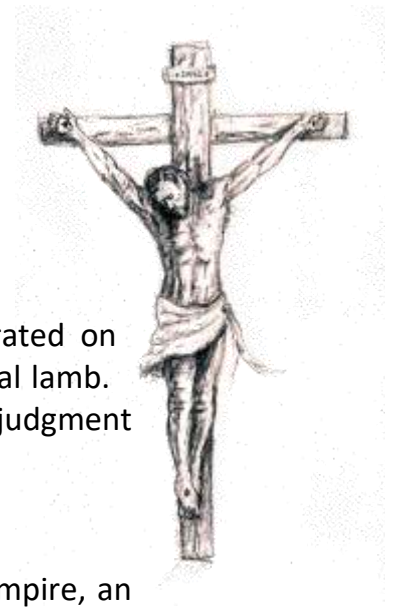
- **Jonah 1:1** - *"The word of the LORD came to **Jonah** son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it." (800-750 BC).*
- **Quote:** *"God indeed works in marvelous ways. Assyria, that arrogant nation, was brought low so that it would see its helplessness and desperate need. When this was done God reached out in his infinite love and mercy and converted people by Jonah's preaching. Countless souls were saved and made heirs of heaven, souls that would otherwise have been lost for eternity." (Kauffeld, "The Seasaw of nations," p.23)*

The people repented and the Lord forgave. But now Assyria finds itself on trial once again. Nahum describes Nineveh as **"the city of blood...full of plunder" (3:1)**. Chapter one speaks of the Assyrian king as though he still wielded great power (**v.11**). The last king that fits this is Ashurbanipal, who died in 627 BC.

How seriously do you think Nineveh would have taken the threat in the verse below?

Nahum 1:14 *"You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I WILL PREPARE YOUR GRAVE, for you are vile."*

- What does Nineveh's epitaph stress (**3:18-19**)
- What message do you hear in **2:13** that the world still needs to hear today?
- **(1:15)** **"Celebrate your festivals, Judah."** The festival being celebrated on Palm Sunday was the Passover. Central to that feast was the sacrificial lamb. For those of us who are in Christ Jesus by faith, how has the day of judgment upon our sin passed by us?



Final notes & comments: During the final, turbulent years of the Assyrian Empire, an eight year-old king ascended the throne in Judah (immediately after the brief, two-year reign of King Manasseh's wicked son Amon), by the name of King Josiah. He would be a god-fearing king who's rule would last for 31 years (640-609 BC). He would be the last good king in Judah (four followed before the Fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC). Josiah feared the LORD, taking advantage of the crumbling Assyrian empire, he poured the nation's treasure into the repair of the temple and re-established observance of the Passover in the land, and he brought about some of the greatest spiritual reforms ever since the time of King David.

Read Proverbs 4:10-13. Why is it so crucial that we continue to cling to God's Word?

Manasseh King of Judah (2 Chronicles 33)

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. ⁴ He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever." ⁵ In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

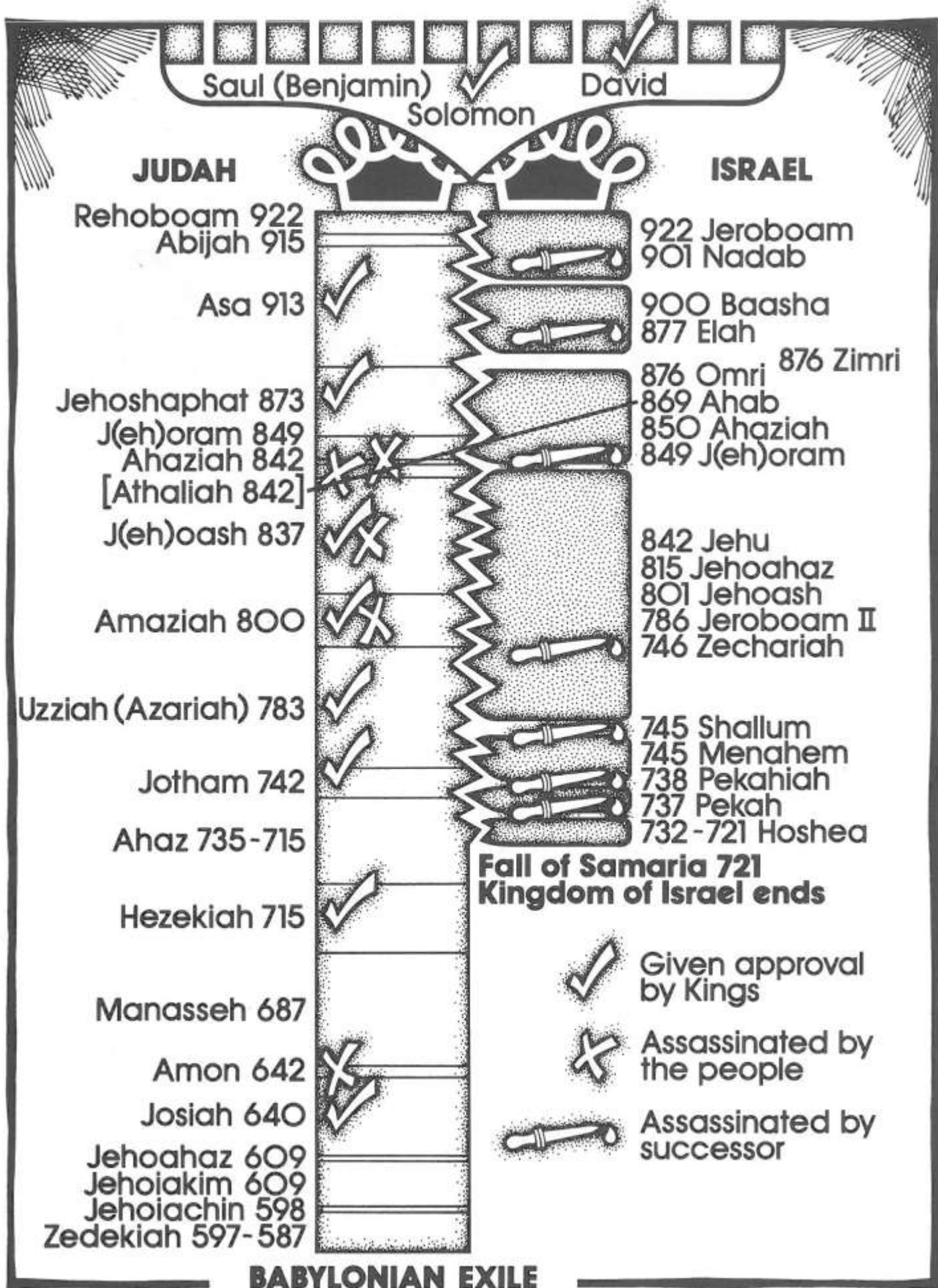
⁷ He took the image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. ⁸ I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and regulations given through Moses." ⁹ But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹ So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. ¹² In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. ¹³ And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

¹⁴ Afterward he rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David, west of the Gihon spring in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate and encircling the hill of Ophel; he also made it much higher. He stationed military commanders in all the fortified cities in Judah.

¹⁵ He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the LORD, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city. ¹⁶ Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁷ The people, however, continued to sacrifice at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

¹⁸ The other events of Manasseh's reign, including his prayer to his God and the words the seers spoke to him in the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, are written in the annals of the kings of Israel. ^[a] ¹⁹ His prayer and how God was moved by his entreaty, as well as all his sins and unfaithfulness, and the sites where he built high places and set up Asherah poles and idols before he humbled himself—all these are written in the records of the seers. ^[b] ²⁰ Manasseh rested with his ancestors and was buried in his palace. And Amon his son succeeded him as king.





JUDAH

SHEMAIAH

Rehoboam 922
Abijah 915

Asa 913

Jehoshaphat 873

J(eh)oram 849

Ahaziah 842

JOEL, [Athaliah 842]

J(eh)oash 837

Amaziah 800

Uzziah (Azariah) 783

ISAIAH

MICAH

Jotham 742

Ahaz 735-715

Hezekiah 715

Manasseh 687

Amon 642

Josiah 640

Jehoahaz 609

Jehoiakim 609

Jehoiachin 598

Zedekiah 597-587



Saul

David

Solomon

SAMUEL

AHIJAH

NATHAN



ISRAEL

922 Jeroboam **AHIJAH**
901 Nadab

900 Baasha
877 Elah

876 Omri 876 Zimri

869 Ahab

850 Ahaziah

849 J(eh)oram

ELIJAH

MICAH

ELISHA

JONAH

842 Jehu

815 Jehoahaz

801 Jehoash

786 Jeroboam II

746 Zechariah



AMOS

745 Shallum

745 Menahem

738 Pekahiah

737 Pekah

732-721 Hoshea

Fall of Samaria 721
Kingdom of Israel ends

HOSEA

JEREMIAH 626-582

ZEPHANIAH

NAHUM 612

HABAKKUK, after 612

EZEKIEL 593-571

BABYLONIAN EXILE

RETURN FROM BABYLON 538

POSTEXILIC PROPHETS-

HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, OBADIAH, MALACHI