

Digging into God's Word



Jonah & Nahum



written by: Shelli Locke

Copyright © 2026 Shelli Locke

All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce or copy portions of this material for personal use or individual or small group study. However, this material may **not** be shared, distributed, sold, or used for commercial purposes without express written consent from the author.

Scripture notes, unless otherwise noted, are taken from *Holman Christian Standard Version*.
(Holman Christian Standard Bible Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers).

Published by:

Self-published by Shelli Locke

Digging Into the Word

I am so glad you are taking time to dig into the Word of God. What an amazing opportunity we have to grow in our understanding of God Himself and learn about the life and sacrifice of Christ. I hope you enjoy taking time to go verse by verse and chapter by chapter. I pray that you will grow in your faith and experience the love of the Savior whose biggest desire is to have a relationship with you.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bradie Peebles for designing the cover of this study. Her gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Sources

For all 'Bible Notes', I used my study Bible which is the *Holman Christian Standard Bible*. All websites used are noted within the text for additional study resources.

God Bless!

Jonah and Nahum

Jonah

The book's author is anonymous, though it records a narrative about Jonah, the son of Amittai from Gath-hepher near Nazareth (2 Kg 14:25). It was written between 800-750 BC during the reign of Jeroboam II. Jonah probably preached in Nineveh sometime between the death of the Assyrian ruler Adad-nirari III (783-782 B.C.) and the kingship of Tiglath-pileser III (745-727 B.C.), under whose leadership Assyria achieved military dominance of the region. Although the original audience is not specifically identified, the people of Nineveh were clearly the immediate recipients of Johah's prophetic message. However, the book itself was written for the people of Israel. The book of Jonah is still read during the afternoon of Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement. - Bible Notes.

[Who was Jonah in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 1: The Disobedient Prophet on the Run

Vs. 1-2- This story begins with God giving specific directives to Jonah. What does He tell him to do and why?

Vs. 3- How did Jonah respond to God's command?

Vs. 4- What did God do to get his attention?

Vs. 5- How did the sailors react to the storm?

Where was Jonah during this chaos?

Vs. 6- What does the captain insist Jonah do and why?

Vs. 7- How did the sailors figure out Jonah was the one to blame for this nightmare?

[What was the practice of casting lots? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 8-9- They demand to know what is going on, who he is, his business, and where he is from. How does Jonah answer them?

Vs. 10-11- What did the sailors ask him?

Vs. 12- What did Jonah tell them to do and why?

(Bible Notes- Jonah seems to have been determined to stick with his plan of getting away from God, even if it meant drowning in the sea. However, the solution Jonah offered betrays his cowardice. Despite the admission that he deserved death, Jonah did not offer to jump overboard but instructed the crew to pick him up and throw him into the sea.)

Vs. 13-14- The sailors did not listen to Jonah's suggestion and tried desperately to row toward land. When they realized they could not row against the raging sea, what did they do?

Vs. 15-16- After praying to Yahweh, what did they do?

The sea immediately calmed. How did these sailors respond?

(Bible Notes- Ironically, the sailors did what Jonah did not-they called out to the Lord (cp. v. 6; 3:8). Having pleaded with God not to charge them with murder, the men did what Jonah instructed them to do, and the sea calmed (more literally, "ceased her raging"; cp. v. 12), confirming Jonah's testimony that Yahweh is the God of all and prompting an outpouring of worship by the Gentile sailors.)

Vs. 17- What does the Lord do?

How long was Jonah in "nature's submarine" before he made it back to his destination?

[Was Jonah truly swallowed by a whale? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Chapter 2:

Vs. 1-10- Jonah's prayer from inside the fish:

Vs. 2- What does he affirm?

Vs. 3-7- Jonah describes his dire situation upon being thrown into the sea. What details does he reveal?

As he felt his life fading away, who did he remember?

What did he credit God for doing?

Jonah describes the peril of almost drowning, yet credits God for hearing his cries and saving him. Thank goodness for giant fish!

Vs. 8-9- Jonah has a renewed appreciation for God! What does he vow?

He says, “Salvation is from the _____”.

[What is salvation? What is the Christian doctrine of salvation? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 10 – What did the Lord command the fish to do?

Chapter 3: The Obedient Prophet and His Task:

Vs. 1-3- Take two: Here we see a repeat of chapter 1 verses 1-2. How did Jonah respond?

Vs. 3-4- Jonah walked through this large city revealing God’s message to the people. What was he saying?

(Not exactly a passionate sermon!)

Vs. 5- Upon hearing this news, how did the people of Nineveh respond?

Vs. 6-9- What did the king of Nineveh decree?

Vs. 10- What is God's response?

The Ninevites took this warning very seriously and all repented and called out to God. Isn't God's mercy beautiful?

[What does it mean that God is merciful? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-does-it-mean-that-God-is-merciful/)

Chapter 4:

Vs. 1- How did Jonah respond to this act of mercy God bestowed on Nineveh's people?

[Why was Jonah angry that the Ninevites repented \(Jonah 4:1-2\)? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Why-was-Jonah-angry-that-the-Ninevites-repented-Jonah-4:1-2/)

Vs. 2-3- Jonah's prayer: This is not a prayer we would typically expect from a prophet of God. What does he express in each verse?

Vs. 2-

Vs. 3-

Vs. 4- What does God ask him?

[What does the Bible say about anger? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/What-does-the-Bible-say-about-anger/)

Are you surprised at Jonah's reaction? Explain:

Have you ever felt this way?

Vs. 5- What does Jonah do?

Vs. 6- What does God do and why?

How does Jonah respond to this relief?

Vs. 7-8- Then what does God do?

(Bible Notes- The worm first appeared to be an antagonist by destroying Jonah's shade. However, God used the worm to deliver His message of longing rebuke to the prophet (4:10-11).

As Jonah endures the relentless heat, what does he say?

Vs. 9- What does God ask him?

How does Jonah reply to Him?

Vs. 10-11- God's profound reply. Explain:

(Bible Notes- Jonah, who knew well the Lord's character, had grown apathetic toward the outside world. God's compassion reached far beyond the borders of Israel. The Lord's lesson in mercy and forgiveness should be for believers in every age. Jesus Himself referred to the story of Jonah as a historical event and used it effectively as an object lesson for His hearers (Mt 12:38-41; Lk 11:29-30, 32).

[How is God full of compassion \(Psalm 112:4\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Within this short book we see many attributes of God:

God is *sovereign* and in control of all aspects of His creation. What examples do we see of this throughout this book?

God is *merciful* when people turn to Him. What examples do we see?

God is *understanding* of the weaknesses and vulnerability of humans. How does He show this throughout?

God is *forgiving*. How is this portrayed throughout?

[Is there any sin that God will not forgive? | GotQuestions.org](#)

God sees every individual as valuable and worth saving. He knew the exact number of souls in Nineveh, and all were worth saving. Everyone is worth saving!

[How can I be saved? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[Book of Jonah Summary: A Complete Animated Overview](#) (The Bible Project)

Nahum

This book is named for its author Nahum (Hb, “comfort” or “consolation”) and was written between 663-612 B.C. Nahum’s prophecy must be understood against the backdrop of the painful oppression of Israel and Judah by Assyria. The northern kingdom of Israel had already been conquered by Assyria (722 B.C.). Now Judah was experiencing the Assyrian cruelty. Just as God had appointed Assyria to judge Judah for their sin, the cup of His wrath would be poured on Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, when the city fell to the Medes and the Babylonians (612 B.C.).

[Who wrote the book of Nahum? Who was the author of Nahum? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What is the significance of Assyria in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Chapter 1:

Vs. 1- What details are given about this book?

Vs. 2- What is God’s response to His foes and enemies?

[What is the biblical understanding of the wrath of God? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 3- “The Lord is slow to _____ but great in _____.” What will ultimately happen to the guilty?

Vs. 3-6- God’s power and control are seen here through His power over His creation. What is expressed in each verse?

Vs. 3-

Vs. 4-

Vs. 5-

Vs. 6-

Vs. 7- This is an important verse to remember. Jot this down:

Vs. 8- A big BUT. What becomes of His enemies?

(Bible Notes- Even when Israel sinned, God gave them many opportunities to repent. But just as His patience could run out with His own people, so, too, it had a time limit with Assyria.)

Vs. 9-11- God is fully aware of Nineveh's plots against the Lord and those who "plot evil against Yahweh". How does Nahum describe the level of destruction coming to Nineveh?

(Bible Notes- Assyria had long been a menace to the people of Judah. God allowed Assyria to attack Judah because of His people's disobedience. Now that Judah's judgment was complete, God's fierce anger was turned toward Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, located on the Tigris River and built upon the foundation of the city established by Nimrod (cp. Gn 10:11-12).

Vs. 12-13- What did the Lord say regarding Judah?

Vs. 14- Again, what is the message for Nineveh?

Vs. 15- What message of hope does He give Judah?

(Bible Notes- The judgment represents a complete reversal of the final destinies of Assyria and Judah. Assyria's political and military power will be completely destroyed while their bondage over Judah will be broken. Assyria's religion will be rejected, while Judah's faith will be renewed.)

Chapter 2: The Destruction of Nineveh

Vs. 1- What does Nahum prophecy here?

What does he warn them to do?

Vs. 2- What does he reveal about Israel/Jacob?

Vs. 3-6- Nahum describes a panicked and frenzied attempt to prepare for this invasion. However, what does verse 6 describe?

(Bible Notes- The Babylonian Chronicle records that Nineveh fell because of breaches in the city's defenses from flooding waters.)

Vs. 7-13- The Degrading of the City:

Vs. 7-10- How does Nahum describe Nineveh's plight from wealth to ruin?

Vs. 11-12- What rhetorical question is asked as this utter destruction befalls this one powerful force?

Using this analogy of lions, what did he accuse them of?

(Bible Notes- These verses are a metaphor interpreting verses 7-10. The kings of Assyria often compared themselves to lions in the flaunting of their fierce power. Like lions, who, with their marauding pride, wreak destruction, Nineveh had been free to inflict havoc throughout the known world. The lion is also a symbol of destruction in the Old Testament; and Assyria had been referred to as a "lion", an agent of God's judgment on Judah (Is 5:29-30). Now the Assyrians were being held accountable for their ruthless actions-the Lord is against them.)

Vs. 13- What does the Lord, Himself, declare?

Chapter 3: The Humiliation of Nineveh

Vs. 1- How is Nineveh described?

Vs. 2-3- What does Nahum prophecy will come upon Nineveh?

Vs. 4- What are they accused of?

(Bible Notes-Assyria had often hired out their military forces in order to defeat small, defenseless nations. Then they would turn on and destroy their allies. Nineveh, acting as a harlot, had pulled many nations under her control through her mighty armies as well as by her prosperous economy (cp. 2 Kg 18:29-35). Assyria indulged in occult practices on a regular basis. The allusion to witchcraft suggests that demonic means were being used to ensnare nations.)

Vs. 5- What does the Lord make clear?

Vs. 5-6- What will be part of their punishment?

Vs. 7- Having no allies, what does the Lord reveal?

Vs. 8-10- What city does Nahum bring up?

(Bible Notes- The Assyrians had captured Thebes in Egypt in 667 B.C., a clear demonstration of their military might. The Ninevites believed they were invincible. So, Nahum reminds them of the defeat of Thebes, now known as Luxor (the cult center with the Karnak temple of Amun, the main deity of Egypt 1570-1225 B.C. during the 18th and 19th dynasties) and located about 400 miles south of Cairo. The point of Nahum's analogy is that Nineveh will suffer the same fate as Thebes. The irony here is that Nahum refers to one of the cities that Assyria itself had toppled. The Ninevites will prove powerless against their future enemies, just as their past enemies were powerless against them.)

What happened to this once thriving city?

Vs. 11- What is the warning for Assyria/Nineveh?

Vs. 12-13- How does he describe their army and defenses?

Vs. 14-15- Despite their preparations for battle, what will be the outcome?

Vs. 17- What does he say about the court officials and scribes?

Vs. 18-19- Who is addressed here and what is said of him?

How will people react to his demise and why?

[Book of Nahum Summary | Watch an Overview Video](#) (Bible Project.com)