

Jonah and Nahum

2/14/26

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
- Title – “Jonah and Nahum”

How are the two books of the Bible connected?

1. Both are about the city of Nineveh
2. The books roughly cover a 100-year span
3. The books reveal two contrasting approaches that the Lord uses

When was the book of Jonah written?

- During the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel – 792-753 B.C.
- During the reign of Ashurban III of the Neo-Assyrian Empire – 773-755 B.C.
- Two plagues – 765 and 759 B.C.
- Solar eclipse – 763 B.C.
- These dates help support the view – book of Jonah was written around 760 B.C.

When was book of Nahum written?

- Before 612 B.C. – when the city was destroyed by the Babylonians
- After 663 B.C. – Egypt’s capital (“No Amon” in 3:8) was captured by Assyria
- Egypt’s capital regained its independence in 654 B.C.
- Since Nahum does not mention Egypt’s capital regaining its independence (in 654 B.C.) – many believe that Nahum was written between 663-654 B.C.

These 2 books demonstrate the two sides of God’s character.

In the book of Jonah – God shows His compassion, His slowness to anger and His mercy.

In the book of Nahum – God shows His ability to address sin.

In Jonah – the Ninevites accepted God’s grace.

In Nahum – the Ninevites received judgment – (their violence, cruelty & breaking of treaties).

- Nahum – accepted his purpose to deliver God’s message to Nineveh

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| Nahum 1:1 | the only place in the Bible where Nahum is mentioned – vision |
| 2-11 | Nahum’s observations – (slow to anger, but does express anger) |
| 12-13 | quoting the Lord – “thus says the Lord” |
| 14-15 | Nahum’s observations |
| Nahum 2:1-12 | Nahum’s observations |
| 13 | quoting the Lord |
| Nahum 3:1-4 | Nahum’s observations |
| 5-7 | quoting the Lord |
| 8-19 | Nahum’s observations |

Jonah's first reaction – Jonah ran away from God

Jonah 1:1 “arise, go to Nineveh (that great city) and cry out against it – for their wickedness has come up before Me”

2 but Jonah arose to flee Tarshish from the presence of the Lord – he went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish – so he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish (from the presence of the Lord)

4 the Lord – sent out a great wind on the sea

6 the captain – arise, call on your God

7 the men cast lots – and confirmed that the trouble was because of Jonah

15 they threw Jonah into the sea

16 they feared the Lord exceedingly – they offered a sacrifice – took vows

17 belly of a fish

Jonah's second reaction – Jonah was angry

arise, to Nineveh (that great city) & preach to it the message that I tell you their repentance displeased Jonah exceedingly – he became angry he prayed to the Lord – “Ah, Lord, isn’t this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish – for I knew that You are a gracious and merciful God (slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness) – One who relents from doing harm”

You know – this isn't going to end well.

You know – that their repentance is not real.

You know – their repentance is not going to last.

Jonah 4:3 “please take my life from me”
5 went out of the city – made himself a shelter – for shade
6 the Lord prepared a plant – shade to deliver Jonah from his misery
7 God prepared a worm – to damage the plant
8 God prepared a vehement east wind – and the sun beat down on his head

The Lord asked 3 questions

Jonah 4:4 the Lord asked: "Is it right for you to be angry?"
9 God asked: "Is it right to be angry about the plant?" – Jonah responded: "It
is right for me to be angry, even to death!"
10-11 the Lord asked: "You had pity on the plant . . . Should I not pity Nineveh
(that great city) where more than 120,000 people who cannot
discern between their right hand and their left hand [some say this
number referred to children] – and much livestock?"

Three final scriptures – 1 Peter 5:6-7.....2 Corinthians 12:7-10.....Matthew 26:36-44