

2 Peter 3:1-13

The story of the people of Assyria and Nineveh her capital, as recorded by the prophets Jonah and Nahum, is one in a long line of human failures to pay attention to God and His call and his warnings about pride, cruelty and wickedness. In fact, 2 Peter 3:1-10 capture this human tendency to think much of self and little of God, except perhaps to mock Him, His righteous perspective, and His claim that history in its present state is in His hand and will reach a conclusion. There are two great truths about God that we must grasp: First, that God is long-suffering and patient with sinners. Second, that God's long-suffering and patience always reach their end, with resounding and irrevocable judgments! In the presence of this second truth, human autonomy and pride in their brief moment of glory show themselves for what they are: Foolish.

Nineveh experienced the first, with Jonah's warnings, and for a short while she responded. But now with Nahum she is in that 2nd phase of her discovery about herself – she's about to be proven embarrassingly foolish, and *there is no recourse. It's too late!*



Nahum 2:1-2, describe the Lord's faithfulness to Israel and Judah, and the end of his patience toward the Assyrians who have oppressed them.

V3-10, Here Nahum describes *in present tense*, as a future certainty as if it were happening right before his eyes, the arrival of the conquering Medes and Babylonians.

V8, Assyria is described like a lovely pool, a lake of sweet water, whose dam is suddenly let loose and no amount of shouting and scrambling and buckets can put the water back.... whoosh! In a moment it is gone and a field of mud is all that remains.

V10, think of all the hopes and dreams and plans and security that the families of Nineveh had! Gone! Security and futurity are wiped away all at once.

V11-13, The lustful pride of life (signified by the “young lions” of the nobility of Assyria is set against the overwhelming sovereign power of the Almighty in v13! See 2:15 for the contrast in messengers!

3:1-7,

1-3, **God's judgment** comes by the arrival of the overwhelming Babylonian forces.

4, **The reasons** for the the judgment

5-8, the **result** of the judgment

8-10, The Assyrians had attacked and sacked Egyptian Thebes (No-Amon).

V9, The Thebans had relied on their vassal state allies... to no avail when the Assyrians

had attacked.

V10, What the Assyrians had cruelly done to the Thebans, now God would have done to the Assyrians by the Babylonians. *Pride goeth before the fall!*

v11-end, the utter collapse of the Assyrian society at the moment of their greatest political and military strength.

Vv 18-19 are among the saddest commentaries on the fall of a society.