

## **Nahum 1:6-15**

*To understand Nahum's prophesy of the fall of Assyria's capital, Nineveh, in 612BC, and with it the great Assyrian empire, is to understand God's anger and judgment of gentile nations who reject God's grace and mercy and who abuse His Chosen People and who are cruel and wicked. But to grasp how this works out, we need to review the history and circumstance of God's warnings and longsuffering toward gentile Nineveh.*

(See Review of history on overhead).

V1:6, Who indeed, is the question! The “who” ultimately on trial here is Assyrian king Sennacherib and his successors who followed in his blasphemous and abusive ways. Because in invading Judah, destroying its walled cities and finally trying (and failing) to destroy Jerusalem, Sennacherib had committed the ultimate sin: To understand it, let's look at 2 Kings ch 18.

v7, note the sharp tension between v6 toward Sennacherib, and v7 toward Judah!

V8. and then back to v8, the promise of angry destruction of the prideful Assyrians!

V9-10, a personal promise of destruction on those that set their ways against the LORD, Jehovah! Sennacherib has done more than wage war against Judah, he has waged war against Jehovah!

V11, The character of king Sennacherib is matched by God's examination and judgment. See 2 Kings 19:6-7 and Isaiah's encouragement to Hezekiah!

V12-14, The illusion of pagan strength in men and horses and military forces.

V13, is for Judah.

V14, The false gods of Sennacherib would witness not his victory but his death, at the hands of his own sons. See 2 Kings 19:37.

v15, A messenger would be sent from the battle of Nineveh in 612, all the way to Judah, to shout the good news of the fall, sacking and burning of that wicked city and all that it stood for! Judah is encouraged to prepare a feast for that coming day! Amazingly, at the darkest hour, when oppression is at its worst, the Lord commands a heart of thanksgiving!

**Faith in God sees a bright future, not because things naturally work out that way, but because of God's personal favor and promises.** God's sovereign mercy and grace made the difference for Judah. And they will, in future, make the eternal difference in Christ and ultimately in his New Covenant promised to them in the kingdom to come.