

The Downfall of Assyria

Nahum

by Don Falkos

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The prophet Nahum brought good news to the people of Judah – word of the imminent downfall of their most hated enemy, the Assyrian empire, and the destruction of its capital city, Nineveh. Nahum said:

Nineveh was surrounded. Defenses were mustered, but it was too late.

The enemy shields flashed red in the sunlight. A forest of spears reached above the heads of the soldiers clad in scarlet. The attack began. The city wall was breached, the gates flung open, and the enemy flooded in. The palace was overthrown. Chariots clattered through the streets. Swords flashed and Nineveh's troops were cut down; dead bodies piled everywhere.

Then the enemy began to plunder, taking all the silver, all the gold, all of Nineveh's many treasures, until the city was an empty shambles, stripped of its uncounted wealth. Its people stood aghast, and in great fear they were carried off into exile.

With the loss of Nineveh, the Assyrian empire was fatally wounded. Its history of cruelty precluded anyone coming to its aid. Rather, everyone who heard the news clapped their hands in joyous celebration of its demise.

A few years later, everything Nahum said came to pass. Nineveh was destroyed and the Assyrian empire collapsed.

"The Lord proclaims peace," said Nahum, "The Lord is powerful, yet patient. The Lord never lets the guilty go unpunished. The Lord is good. The Lord is a refuge in times of trouble. Trust in the Lord, and the Lord will care for you."