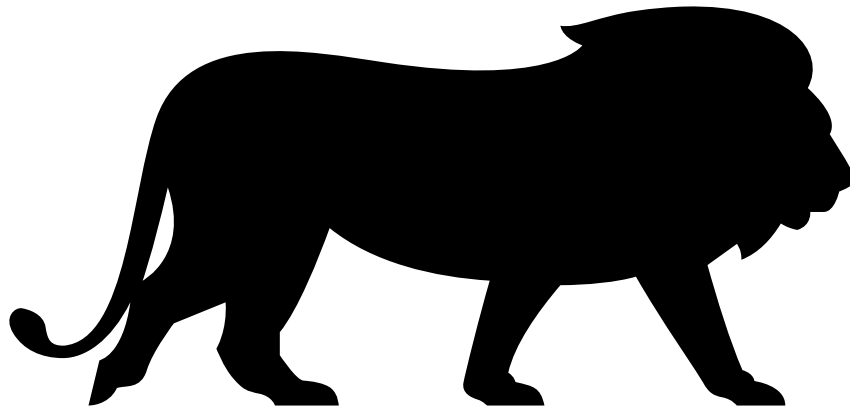


# Amos & Nahum



“The Lord roars from Zion...”

## Our Schedule

Date	Scripture to Study
10/9/22	Amos introduction + chapter 1
10/16/22	Amos 2-3
10/23/22	Amos 4
10/30/22	Substitute class
11/6/22	Amos 5
11/13/22	Amos 6
11/20/22	Amos 7
11/27/22	Substitute class
12/4/22	Amos 8
12/11/22	Amos 9
12/18/22	Nahum introduction + chapter 1
12/25/22	Nahum 2-3

## Suggestions For Class Preparation

*Before the first class:*

1. Read Amos all the way through in one sitting. This will help you get a good grasp of the overall messages and tone of the book. Amos is short so it won't take long.
2. Answer the introductory questions on the next page. These questions relate to some basic facts about Amos and about the main points and themes of the book.

*Before each class:*

1. Read the assigned text each week. I've provided each chapter in the ESV translation with wide margins on the sides for your notes.
2. Consult the outline of the book on page 3. It's always important to stay firmly anchored in the big picture so we don't become lost in the details.
3. Using pens or colored pencils, mark repeating words/key phrases in the text. For example, words like "hear" will be important to watch out for, since Amos will use it to signal key shifts in his prophecies.
4. Answer the questions in the booklet. Although I've provided questions for each chapter, they are not an exhaustive list. Feel free to generate your own questions and record the answers.

## Introductory Questions

1. Study Amos 1.1. What do we know about Amos from this verse and 7.14? What does his name mean (you might want to consult a Bible dictionary or similar resource)?
2. Amos 1.1 tells us that Amos worked during the days of Uzziah and Jeroboam. What do we know about those kings and the conditions of their countries? Consult 2 Chronicles 26 and 2 Kings 14.23-29.
3. Who were other prophets of God working at the same time as Amos?
4. As you read through Amos' book, what are the main points that stand out to you?

## Outline of Amos

*(Taken from ESV Study Bible)*

- I. Superscription (1:1)
- II. Oracles of Judgment (1:2-6:14)
  - A. Judgments on Israel's neighbors (1:2-2:5)
  - B. Judgments on Israel (2:6-6:14)
    1. Introductory announcement of judgment on Israel (2:6-16)
    2. Detailed announcements of judgment on Israel (3:1-6:14)
      - a) An oracle of warning (3:1-15)
      - b) An oracle of doom (4:1-13)
      - c) An oracle of entreaty (5:1-17)
      - d) An oracle of woe (5:18-6:14)
- III. Visions of Judgment (7:1-9:15)
  - A. A vision of inescapable judgment (7:1-17)
    1. The vision itself (7:1-9)
    2. An experience reinforcing the vision (7:10-17)
  - B. A vision of the terrible end (8:1-14)
  - C. A vision of the Lord standing beside the altar (9:1-15)
    1. The thresholds shaken (9:1-10)
    2. The booth of David restored (9:11-15)

## Amos 1

1 The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 And he said: "The LORD roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the pastures of the shepherds mourn, and the top of Carmel withers."

3 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

4 So I will send a fire upon the house of Hazael, and it shall devour the strongholds of Ben-hadad.

5 I will break the gate-bar of Damascus, and cut off the inhabitants from the Valley of Aven, and him who holds the scepter from Beth-eden; and the people of Syria shall go into exile to Kir," says the LORD.

6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Gaza, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom.

7 So I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, and it shall devour her strongholds.

8 I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and him who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," says the Lord GOD.

9 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Tyre, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood.

10 So I will send a fire upon the wall of Tyre, and it shall devour her strongholds."

11 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Edom, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever.

12 So I will send a fire upon Teman, and it shall devour the strongholds of Bozrah."

13 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of the Ammonites, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border.

14 So I will kindle a fire in the wall of Rabbah, and it shall devour her strongholds, with shouting on the day of battle, with a tempest in the day of the whirlwind;

15 and their king shall go into exile, he and his princes together," says the LORD.

## Questions from Chapter 1

1. Notice in vs. 1 that the Lord roars from *Zion* instead of Bethel or Gilgal or Beersheba (4.4, 5.4-5). What point is he making?
  
2. What does this phrase mean: “For three transgressions of Gaza and for four, I will not revoke the punishment”?
  
3. Record the sins and punishments for each city or nation.
  - a. Damascus (Syria) - vss. 3-5:
  
  - b. Gaza (Philistia) - vss. 6-8:
  
  - c. Tyre - vss. 9-10:
  
  - d. Edom - vss. 11-12:
  
  - e. Ammon - vss. 13-15:
  
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? How should we apply it?

## Amos 2-3

1 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because he burned to lime the bones of the king of Edom.

2 So I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the strongholds of Kerioth, and Moab shall die amid uproar, amid shouting and the sound of the trumpet;

3 I will cut off the ruler from its midst, and will kill all its princes with him," says the LORD.

4 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the LORD, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked.

5 So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem."

6 Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—

7 those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go in to the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned;

8 they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined.

9 "Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath.

10 Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite.

11 And I raised up some of your sons for prophets, and some of your young men for Nazirites. Is it not indeed so, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD.

12 "But you made the Nazirites drink wine, and commanded the prophets, saying, 'You shall not prophesy.'

13 "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down.

14 Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life;

15 he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life;

16 and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the LORD.

3:1 Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

2 "You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

3 "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?

4 Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing?

5 Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing?

6 Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?

7 "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.

8 The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

9 Proclaim to the strongholds in Ashdod and to the strongholds in the land of Egypt, and say, "Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria, and see the great tumults within her, and the oppressed in her midst."

10 "They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD, "those who store up violence and robbery in their strongholds."

11 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "An adversary shall surround the land and bring down your defenses from you, and your strongholds shall be plundered."

12 Thus says the LORD: "As the shepherd rescues from the mouth of the lion two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the people of Israel who dwell in Samaria be rescued, with the corner of a couch and part of a bed.

13 "Hear, and testify against the house of Jacob," declares the Lord GOD, the God of hosts,

14 "that on the day I punish Israel for his transgressions, I will punish the altars of Bethel, and the horns of the altar shall be cut off and fall to the ground.

15 I will strike the winter house along with the summer house, and the houses of ivory shall perish, and the great houses shall come to an end," declares the LORD.

### Questions from Chapters 2-3

1. Record the sins and punishments for each nation or city:
  - a. Moab - 2.1-3:
  
  - b. Judah - 2.4-5:
  
  - c. Israel - 2.6-16:
  
2. Why have the Israelites abandoned their allegiance to God (2.9-12)?
  
3. How does Amos (from Judah) justify his prophetic work in the northern kingdom (3.1-8)?
  
4. Who are the witnesses God calls against his people and what does he want them to notice (vss. 9-10)?
  
5. What do vss. 11-16 tell us about the kind of punishment that is coming for Israel?
  
6. How are these chapters relevant to our lives? How should we apply them?



## Amos 4

- 1 "Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, who are on the mountain of Samaria, who oppress the poor, who crush the needy, who say to your husbands, 'Bring, that we may drink!'
- 2 The Lord GOD has sworn by his holiness that, behold, the days are coming upon you, when they shall take you away with hooks, even the last of you with fishhooks.
- 3 And you shall go out through the breaches, each one straight ahead; and you shall be cast out into Harmon," declares the LORD.
- 4 "Come to Bethel, and transgress; to Gilgal, and multiply transgression; bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three days;
- 5 offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!" declares the Lord GOD.
- 6 "I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places, yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.
- 7 "I also withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; I would send rain on one city, and send no rain on another city; one field would have rain, and the field on which it did not rain would wither;
- 8 so two or three cities would wander to another city to drink water, and would not be satisfied; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.
- 9 "I struck you with blight and mildew; your many gardens and your vineyards, your fig trees and your olive trees the locust devoured; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.
- 10 "I sent among you a pestilence after the manner of Egypt; I killed your young men with the sword, and carried away your horses, and I made the stench of your camp go up into your nostrils; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.
- 11 "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," declares the LORD.
- 12 "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"
- 13 For behold, he who forms the mountains and creates the wind, and declares to man what is his thought, who makes the morning darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth— the LORD, the God of hosts, is his name!

## Questions from Chapter 4

1. In vss. 1-3, God condemns the rich women of Samaria and calls them “cows of Bashan.” What does that suggest about their focus and their sin? What will happen?
  
2. In vss. 4-5, Amos uses a sarcastic tone to condemn the worship practices of Israel, specifically the worship centers of Bethel and Gilgal. What do we know about these two cities from Bible history? What is now going wrong in these places?
  - a. Bethel (see Genesis 12.8, 28.10-19):
  
  - b. Gilgal (see Joshua 4.19-24, 5.8-9):
  
3. What patterns of language do you see in vss. 6-13? What do we learn about God? What does the repetitive Israelite sin say about their view of God?
  
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? How should we apply it?

## Amos 5

1 Hear this word that I take up over you in lamentation, O house of Israel:

2 “Fallen, no more to rise, is the virgin Israel; forsaken on her land, with none to raise her up.”

3 For thus says the Lord GOD: “The city that went out a thousand shall have a hundred left, and that which went out a hundred shall have ten left to the house of Israel.”

4 For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel: “Seek me and live; 5 but do not seek Bethel, and do not enter into Gilgal or cross over to Beersheba; for Gilgal shall surely go into exile, and Bethel shall come to nothing.”

6 Seek the LORD and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel,

7 O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth!

8 He who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning and darkens the day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is his name;

9 who makes destruction flash forth against the strong, so that destruction comes upon the fortress.

10 They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth.

11 Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.

12 For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate.

13 Therefore he who is prudent will keep silent in such a time, for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, as you have said.

15 Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

16 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the Lord: “In all the squares there shall be wailing, and in all the streets they shall say, ‘Alas! Alas!’ They shall call the farmers to mourning and to wailing those who are skilled in lamentation,

17 and in all vineyards there shall be wailing, for I will pass through your midst,” says the LORD.

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,  
19 as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.  
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?  
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.  
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.  
24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.  
25 "Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?  
26 You shall take up Sikkuth your king, and Kiyyun your star-god—your images that you made for yourselves,  
27 and I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD, whose name is the God of hosts.

### Questions for Chapter 5

1. What are the methods God uses in this chapter to try to wake up the Israelites?
2. God says three different times to "seek" him and his ways (vss. 5, 6, 14). What does this mean in the context? Also consult Deuteronomy 30.19 + surrounding verses.
3. What are the differences between the God's perspective and the Israelite's?
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? What applications do you see for us?

## Amos 6

1 “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes!

2 Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory,

3 O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

4 “Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall,

5 who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music,

6 who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

7 Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

8 The Lord GOD has sworn by himself, declares the LORD, the God of hosts: “I abhor the pride of Jacob and hate his strongholds, and I will deliver up the city and all that is in it.”

9 And if ten men remain in one house, they shall die.

10 And when one’s relative, the one who anoints him for burial, shall take him up to bring the bones out of the house, and shall say to him who is in the innermost parts of the house, “Is there still anyone with you?” he shall say, “No”; and he shall say, “Silence! We must not mention the name of the LORD.”

11 For behold, the LORD commands, and the great house shall be struck down into fragments, and the little house into bits.

12 Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood—

13 you who rejoice in Lo-debar, who say, “Have we not by our own strength captured Karnaim for ourselves?”

14 “For behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel,” declares the LORD, the God of hosts; “and they shall oppress you from Lebo-hamath to the Brook of the Arabah.”

## Questions for Chapter 6

1. What evidence of arrogance do you see in the hearts and lives of the Israelites?
2. In vs. 8 God reveals that he has “sworn by himself.” Where have we heard that language before and what does it mean? (See Genesis 22.16, Hebrews 6.13).
3. What are the various descriptions God uses to describe their coming punishment?
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? What applications do you see for us?

## Amos 7

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, he was forming locusts when the latter growth was just beginning to sprout, and behold, it was the latter growth after the king's mowings.

2 When they had finished eating the grass of the land, I said, "O Lord GOD, please forgive! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

3 The LORD relented concerning this: "It shall not be," said the LORD.

4 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, the Lord GOD was calling for a judgment by fire, and it devoured the great deep and was eating up the land.

5 Then I said, "O Lord GOD, please cease! How can Jacob stand? He is so small!"

6 The LORD relented concerning this: "This also shall not be," said the Lord GOD.

7 This is what he showed me: behold, the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand.

8 And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass by them;

9 the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

10 Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the midst of the house of Israel. The land is not able to bear all his words.

11 For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."

12 And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there,

13 but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

14 Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah, "I was no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I was a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore figs.

15 But the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

16 Now therefore hear the word of the LORD. "You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.'

17 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Your wife shall be a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be divided up with a measuring line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land."

## Questions from Chapter 7

1. Why do you suppose God is showing Amos these scenes of punishment? What other Biblical story does this remind us of? (See Exodus 32).
2. Carefully notice Amaziah and what he says to Jeroboam and Amos (vss. 10-13). How does he show his ungodliness?
3. How does Amos' response correct the attitude of his opponent?
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? What applications do you see for us?



## Amos 8

1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit.

2 And he said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them.

3 The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," declares the Lord GOD. "So many dead bodies!" "They are thrown everywhere!" "Silence!"

4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, 5 saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances,

6 that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?"

7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

8 Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?"

9 "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.

10 I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day.

11 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.

12 They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

13 "In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst.

14 Those who swear by the Guilt of Samaria, and say, 'As your god lives, O Dan,' and, 'As the Way of Beersheba lives,' they shall fall, and never rise again."

## Questions from Chapter 8

1. Why does God show Amos a basket of summer fruit? What is the meaning of the vision?
2. What problems do you see in the attitude of the Israelites in vss. 5-6?
3. What stands out to you about the way God describes the day of judgment in vss. 9-10? How does this passage remind you of another Bible event?
4. How is this chapter relevant to our lives? What applications do you see for us?

## Amos 9

1 I saw the Lord standing beside the altar, and he said: "Strike the capitals until the thresholds shake, and shatter them on the heads of all the people; and those who are left of them I will kill with the sword; not one of them shall flee away; not one of them shall escape.

2 "If they dig into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down.

3 If they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, from there I will search them out and take them; and if they hide from my sight at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent, and it shall bite them.

4 And if they go into captivity before their enemies, there I will command the sword, and it shall kill them; and I will fix my eyes upon them for evil and not for good."

5 The Lord GOD of hosts, he who touches the earth and it melts, and all who dwell in it mourn, and all of it rises like the Nile, and sinks again, like the Nile of Egypt;

6 who builds his upper chambers in the heavens and founds his vault upon the earth; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth—the LORD is his name.

7 "Are you not like the Cushites to me, O people of Israel?" declares the LORD. "Did I not bring up Israel from the land of Egypt, and the Philistines from Caphtor and the Syrians from Kir?"

8 Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob," declares the LORD.

9 "For behold, I will command, and shake the house of Israel among all the nations as one shakes with a sieve, but no pebble shall fall to the earth.

10 All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword, who say, 'Disaster shall not overtake or meet us.'

11 "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old,

12 that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this.

13 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

## Questions from Chapter 9

1. What do we learn about God's judgment in the first ten verses?
2. What are the characteristics of the days of prosperity in vss. 11-15? How do they remind us of the garden of Eden?
3. How does James use the words of this chapter in the Jerusalem council (see Acts 15.13-18)?
4. How would you summarize the overall point of the book of Amos? What are some of the main ideas you're taking away from this book?

## Nahum Introduction

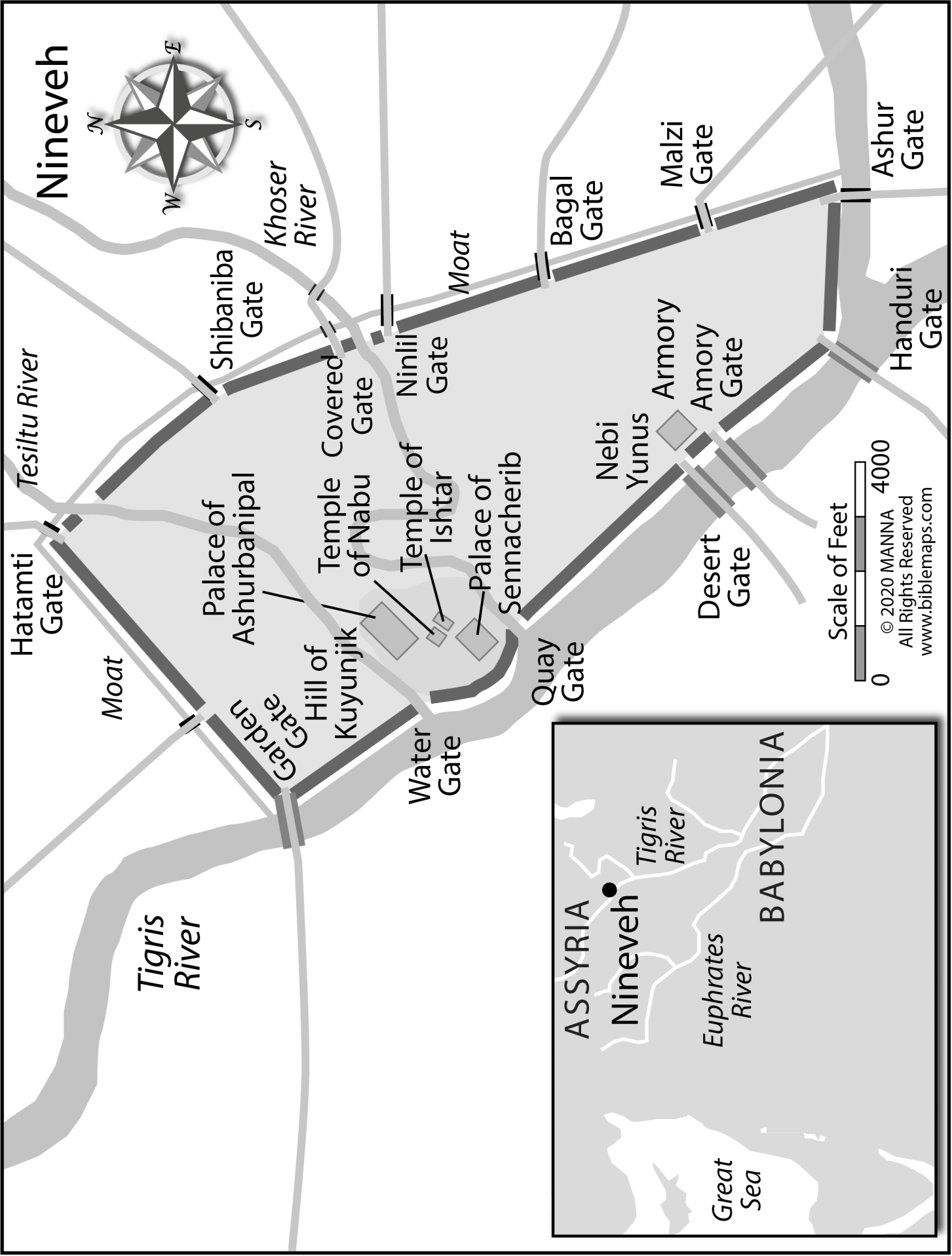
Nineveh, the city Nahum preached against, was both ancient and powerful. It was founded after Noah's flood by Nimrod, a "mighty hunter" (Genesis 10.11-12), and was part of several empires until the Assyrians absorbed it. In its heyday the site of the city covered an area with a circumference of approximately 7.75 miles. Jonah 3.3 tells us that "Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth." At the time of Jonah it had a population size of more than 120,000 people (Jonah 4.11).

King Sennacherib (who invaded Judah during Hezekiah's reign) made Nineveh the capital of Assyria and improved it with many building projects. At the time Nahum prophesied, somewhere between 660-630 B.C., Nineveh was at "full strength" (Nahum 1.12). Jonah visited the city in the middle of the 700's B.C, more than one hundred years before. Soon after the death of its last great king, Ashurbanipal, Nineveh fell in 612 B.C. to a combined army of Babylonians and Medes.

We know very little about Nahum personally or about his hometown of Elkosh. By Nahum's time, the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Assyria (722 B.C.), so Nahum must have addressed his message to Judah (as in 1.15).

## Introductory Questions

1. Read Jonah 3. How did the people of Nineveh show a repentant heart? What did they repent of?
2. Nahum means "comforter" in the Hebrew language. Given the book's emphasis on God's wrath and the destruction it brings, how can this book be comforting?
3. Read through Nahum. How would you summarize the main message of the book? What are some key verses that stand out?



**Outline of Nahum**  
*(Taken from the ESV Study Bible)*

- I. Introduction (1:1)
- II. A Psalm Descriptively Praising the Lord (1:2–8)
  - A. The Lord takes vengeance on his guilty adversaries (1:2–3a)
  - B. The Lord rules creation in majesty, and no one can stand before his wrath (1:3b–6)
  - C. The Lord delivers those who take refuge in him (1:7)
  - D. The Lord destroys his adversaries (1:8)
- III. The Lord’s Coming Judgment on Nineveh and Deliverance of Judah (1:9–15)
  - A. The destruction of wicked, plotting Nineveh (1:9–12a)
  - B. Judah, having been afflicted by the Lord, is freed from Assyrian bondage (1:12b–13)
  - C. The termination of vile, idolatrous Nineveh (1:14)
  - D. Peace and deliverance for Judah (1:15)
- IV. Focus on Nineveh: The Lord’s Coming Judgment (2:1–13)
  - A. The beginning of the attack on Nineveh (2:1)
  - B. Reasons for judgment: the Assyrians’ plundering of Judah, though Judah’s restoration by God is planned (2:2)
  - C. Attacking soldiers and military action at Nineveh (2:3–5)
  - D. The fall and plundering of Nineveh (2:6–9)
  - E. A taunting song portraying Nineveh’s destruction because of the city’s lust for conquest (2:10–12)
  - F. The Lord speaks a word of judgment (2:13)
- V. Again, Focus on Nineveh: More concerning the Lord’s Coming Judgment (3:1–19)
  - A. Reasons for judgment: the violence, lying, and greed of Nineveh (3:1)
  - B. Military action at Nineveh and the ensuing slaughter of the Assyrians (3:2–3)
  - C. Reasons for judgment: the wickedness of Nineveh (3:4)
  - D. The Lord speaks a word of judgment (3:5–7)
  - E. Comparison with the conquest of Thebes (3:8–11)
  - F. A taunting song presenting Nineveh’s inevitable destruction because of the city’s incessant evil (3:12–19)

## Nahum 1

- 1 An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.
- 2 The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies.
- 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
- 4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers.
- 5 The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it.
- 6 Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.
- 7 The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.
- 8 But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.
- 9 What do you plot against the LORD? He will make a complete end; trouble will not rise up a second time.
- 10 For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.
- 11 From you came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor.
- 12 Thus says the LORD, "Though they are at full strength and many, they will be cut down and pass away. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more.
- 13 And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."
- 14 The LORD has given commandment about you: "No more shall your name be perpetuated; from the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the metal image. I will make your grave, for you are vile."
- 15 Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.



## Questions from Nahum 1

1. Although vs. 1 says this book is “an oracle concerning Ninevah,” the first half of the chapter is all about the LORD. Why? Also, what do we learn about God from his description of himself?
2. How have the Assyrians sinned? Why is God’s ferocious wrath against them?
3. What is the “good news” that vs. 15 speaks of? How does Paul use this verse in Romans 10?
4. What applications do you see in this chapter for us as Christians?

## Nahum 2-3

1 The scatterer has come up against you. Man the ramparts; watch the road; dress for battle; collect all your strength.

2 For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers have plundered them and ruined their branches.

3 The shield of his mighty men is red; his soldiers are clothed in scarlet. The chariots come with flashing metal on the day he musters them; the cypress spears are brandished.

4 The chariots race madly through the streets; they rush to and fro through the squares; they gleam like torches; they dart like lightning.

5 He remembers his officers; they stumble as they go, they hasten to the wall; the siege tower is set up.

6 The river gates are opened; the palace melts away;

7 its mistress is stripped; she is carried off, her slave girls lamenting, moaning like doves and beating their breasts.

8 Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry, but none turns back.

9 Plunder the silver, plunder the gold! There is no end of the treasure or of the wealth of all precious things.

10 Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale!

11 Where is the lions' den, the feeding place of the young lions, where the lion and lioness went, where his cubs were, with none to disturb?

12 The lion tore enough for his cubs and strangled prey for his lionesses; he filled his caves with prey and his dens with torn flesh.

13 Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard.

**3:1** Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder— no end to the prey!

2 The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and bounding chariot!

3 Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, hosts of slain, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end— they stumble over the bodies!

4 And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute, graceful and of deadly charms, who betrays nations with her whorings, and peoples with her charms.

5 Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and will lift up your skirts over your face; and I will make nations look at your nakedness and kingdoms at your shame.

6 I will throw filth at you and treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle.

7 And all who look at you will shrink from you and say, "Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?" Where shall I seek comforters for you?

8 Are you better than Thebes that sat by the Nile, with water around her, her rampart a sea, and water her wall?

9 Cush was her strength; Egypt too, and that without limit; Put and the Libyans were her helpers.

10 Yet she became an exile; she went into captivity; her infants were dashed in pieces at the head of every street; for her honored men lots were cast, and all her great men were bound in chains.

11 You also will be drunken; you will go into hiding; you will seek a refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortresses are like fig trees with first-ripe figs— if shaken they fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, your troops are women in your midst. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has devoured your bars.

14 Draw water for the siege; strengthen your forts; go into the clay; tread the mortar; take hold of the brick mold!

15 There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the locust. Multiply yourselves like the locust; multiply like the grasshopper!

16 You increased your merchants more than the stars of the heavens. The locust spreads its wings and flies away.

17 Your princes are like grasshoppers, your scribes like clouds of locusts settling on the fences in a day of cold— when the sun rises, they fly away; no one knows where they are.

18 Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them.

19 There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?

### Questions from Chapters 2-3

1. From the visual descriptions of Nineveh's downfall in these two chapters, what do we learn about the effects of God's vengeance?
2. What does God say about *why* he's bringing this devastation upon Nineveh?
3. What pictures do you see here of the futility of sin?
4. What applications do you see here for Christians?