

# Keys to the Book of Hosea

- **Key word**
  - “Return” (*15 times*)
- **Key phrase**
  - “I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love.” (11:4)
- **Key Chapter**
  - Chapter 4
- **Key verses**
  - 4:1

**“There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land.”**

# Background

- The people in Israel were growing more corrupt.
- God called their worship “**spiritual whoredom.**”
- **Israel** had behaved toward Jehovah as Gomer had toward Hosea!
- Because of his own deep hurt, Hosea came to understand how God felt about Israel’s conduct.
- The political rulers were exceedingly corrupt—the king profited from the wickedness!
- No one called on God. **(7:3-7)**

# **The Book of Nahum**

**Nation Reaps  
What It Sows**

**“The LORD is  
good, a  
stronghold in the  
day of trouble;  
And He knows  
those who trust  
in Him.” (1:7)**

# **Background**

- The name, Nahum, means “Consolation” or “Consoler.”
- One of the most poetic and moving of all the prophetic books.
- The reader can feel that he is sharing the prophet’s excitement of the hour.
- Nahum’s home was a place called Elkosh.
- Written between 630 and 612 B.C., sometime before the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C.

# **Background and Theme**

- **Theme**—the fall of the great city of Nineveh.
- Nahum, a preacher with a one-track mind.
- His entire message deals with the destruction of this great and wicked city.
- Some spoke of his prophecy as “**AT LAST!**”
- Nineveh had destroyed many nations.
- Conditions in Judah were the same—but this prophecy had a different purpose.

# **Background and Theme**

- **For centuries, Nineveh had ruled the world of her day.**
- **Her kings were the most ruthless of any nation.**
- **Boasted of their cruelty; made pyramids of human heads; burned cities; skinned people alive; and flung bodies to wild beasts!**
- **Filled Nineveh with plunder and wealth from all nations.**

# **Background and Theme**

- **God was going to bring judgment against Nineveh.**
- **He would destroy the city as she had destroyed others.**
- **She had sown, so now she should reap—one of God's fixed laws (Galatians 6:7,8).**
- **No more preaching as Jonah had done—it's too late!**

# Keys to Nahum

- **Key words**
  - Divine judgment and vengeance
- **Key phrase**
  - “An utter end.”
- **Key chapter—1**
- **Key verses**
  - 1:7-8

*“The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, and darkness will pursue His enemies.”*

# **The Book's Message**

- **The Lord decrees doom on Nineveh (chapter 1).**
- **Book opens with a declaration of God's goodness and severity.**
  - **Severity toward enemies—takes vengeance on them (1-6).**
  - **Goodness toward those who seek refuge in Him (7).**

# **The Book's Message**

- **The Lord decrees doom on Nineveh (chapter 1).**
- **Her overthrow was so complete that Judah was never again afflicted by the Assyrians.**
  - Name not found in the earth.
  - City and nation destroyed like dry grass is destroyed by burning it (9-14).
  - Rejoicing among God's people—freedom from Assyrian cruelty (15).

# **The Book's Message**

- **The siege and destruction of Nineveh (chapter 2).**
- **March and assault that was coming upon the city—it was doomed!**
  - **Saw vision of siege before it took place.**
  - **Coming of the Chaldeans against Nineveh.**
  - **Seen as torches flashing in the light.**
  - **Soldiers fight against one another.**
  - **In their haste, they trampled over the dead bodies (vv.1-7).**

# **The Book's Message**

- **The siege and destruction of Nineveh (chapter 2).**
- **All inhabitants who could would flee from the city.**
  - **Conquerors took away silver, gold, and precious things they had accumulated from other nations.**
  - **There was so much, historians say it took months to remove it all.**
  - **Assyrians likened to lions in their den; would be carried away (vv.10-13).**

# **The Book's Message**

- **Nineveh's sins and her doom (chapter 3).**
- **Nineveh's fate was self-induced—brought about by her own crimes (vv.1-7).**
  - **Describes the fury of the battle itself (vv.1-4).**
  - **The city would fall, be destroyed, and covered with shame (vv.8-11).**
  - **Nation like a drunken man reeling and stumbling—to rise no more! (vs.15).**

# **The Book's Message**

- **Nineveh's sins and her doom (chapter 3).**
- **Book closes with the rulers slumbering dead.**
  - **The inhabitants scattered.**
  - **People of all other nations are clapping their hands.**
  - **Joyful glee that Nineveh has been judged for her wickedness (vs.19).**

# **Timeless Truths in Nahum**

- **The changelessness of God—His word is immutable (Hebrews 6:18; 13:8).**
- **Jehovah is a jealous God—He permits no other gods (Exodus 20:3-5).**
- **God rules in the nations of men (Psalm 103:19; 113:4).**
- **God is a stronghold in time of trouble—if we trust Him (Nahum 1:7; Psalm 46:1,2).**

# **Timeless Truths in Nahum**

- **There is no escaping God's divine vengeance (Psalm 34:16).**
- **Those who take up the sword will surely perish by it (Matthew 26:52).**
- **We see what can happen when God's patience is exhausted (Hebrews 10:30).**
- **Repentance must be genuine, evidenced by our fruits (Matthew 3:8; 17:30,31).**