

The Death of Hezekiah / Manasseh Begins Sole Reign of Judah (687t BC)

2 Kings 20:20–21	2 Chronicles 32:32–33
<p>20 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and all his might, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought water into the city, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah?</p> <p>21 So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and Manasseh his son became king in his place.</p>	<p>32 Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah and his deeds of devotion, behold, they are written in the vision of Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, in the Book of the Kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>33 So Hezekiah slept with his fathers, and they buried him in the upper section of the tombs of the sons of David; and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem honored him at his death. And his son Manasseh became king in his place.</p>

Sennacherib Murdered By His Own Sons (681 BC)

2 Kings 19:37	Isaiah 37:38	2 Chronicles 32:21b
<p>37 It came about as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place.</p>	<p>38 It came about as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons killed him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son became king in his place.</p>	<p>21b And when he had entered the temple of his god, some of his own children killed him there with the sword.</p>

Manasseh—Judah’s Most Evil King (687t – c. 648 BC)

2 Kings 21:2–16	2 Chronicles 33:2–10
<p>2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.</p> <p>3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, “In Jerusalem I will put My name.”</p> <p>5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.</p> <p>6 He made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists.</p>	<p>2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.</p> <p>3 For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the house of the LORD of which the LORD had said, “My name shall be in Jerusalem forever.”</p> <p>5 For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.</p> <p>6 He made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom; and he practiced witchcraft, used divination, practiced sorcery and dealt with mediums and spiritists.</p>

He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking *Him to anger*.

7 Then he set the carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.

8 "And I will not make the feet of Israel wander anymore from the land which I gave their fathers, if only they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that My servant Moses commanded them."

9 But they did not listen, and Manasseh seduced them to do evil more than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

10 Now the LORD spoke through His servants the prophets, saying,

11 "Because Manasseh king of Judah has done these abominations, having done wickedly more than all the Amorites did who *were* before him, and has also made Judah sin with his idols;

12 therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am bringing *such* calamity on Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle.

13 'I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria and the plummet of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.

14 'I will abandon the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies, and they will become as plunder and spoil to all their enemies;

15 because they have done evil in My sight, and have been provoking Me to anger since the day their fathers came from Egypt, even to this day.'"

16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; besides his sin with which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him *to anger*.

7 Then he put the carved image of the idol which he had made in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

8 and I will not again remove the foot of Israel from the land which I have appointed for your fathers, if only they will observe to do all that I have commanded them according to all the law, the statutes and the ordinances *given* through Moses."

9 Thus Manasseh misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel.

10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people,

but they paid no attention.

Nahum's Prophecy Against Nineveh (c. 663–654 BC)**Nahum 1–3****Title**

1:1 The oracle of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

The Revelation of God

- 2 A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;
The LORD is avenging and wrathful.
The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries,
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
- 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,
And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished.
In whirlwind and storm is His way,
And clouds are the dust beneath His feet.
- 4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
He dries up all the rivers.
Bashan and Carmel wither;
The blossoms of Lebanon wither.
- 5 Mountains quake because of Him
And the hills dissolve;
Indeed the earth is upheaved by His presence,
The world and all the inhabitants in it.
- 6 Who can stand before His indignation?
Who can endure the burning of His anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire
And the rocks are broken up by Him.

The LORD's Care for Judah

- 7 The LORD is good,
A stronghold in the day of trouble,
And He knows those who take refuge in Him.
- 8 But with an overflowing flood
He will make a complete end of its site,
And will pursue His enemies into darkness.
- 9 Whatever you devise against the LORD,
He will make a complete end of it.
Distress will not rise up twice.
- 10 Like tangled thorns,
And like those who are drunken with their drink,
They are consumed
As stubble completely withered.
- 11 From you has gone forth
One who plotted evil against the LORD,
A wicked counselor.

The LORD's Word for Judah

- 12 Thus says the LORD,

“Though they are at full *strength* and likewise many,
 Even so, they will be cut off and pass away.
 Though I have afflicted you,
 I will afflict you no longer.

- 13 “So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you,
 And I will tear off your shackles.”

The LORD’s Word to Nineveh

- 14 The LORD has issued a command concerning you:
 “Your name will no longer be perpetuated.
 I will cut off idol and image
 From the house of your gods.
 I will prepare your grave,
 For you are contemptible.”

Judah Exults in Nineveh’s Destruction

- 15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news,
 Who announces peace! [cf. [Isa 52:7](#); [Rom 10:15](#)]
 Celebrate your feasts, O Judah;
 Pay your vows.
 For never again will the wicked one pass through you;
 He is cut off completely.

The LORD’s Judgment of Nineveh

- 2:1 The one who scatters has come up against you.
 Man the fortress, watch the road;
 Strengthen your back, summon all *your* strength.
- 2 For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob
 Like the splendor of Israel,
 Even though devastators have devastated them
 And destroyed their vine branches.
- 3 The shields of his mighty men are *colored red*,
 The warriors are dressed in scarlet,
 The chariots are *enveloped* in flashing steel
 When he is prepared *to march*,
 And the cypress *spears* are brandished.
- 4 The chariots race madly in the streets,
 They rush wildly in the squares,
 Their appearance is like torches,
 They dash to and fro like lightning flashes.
- 5 He remembers his nobles;
 They stumble in their march,
 They hurry to her wall,
 And the mantelet is set up.
- 6 The gates of the rivers are opened
 And the palace is dissolved.
- 7 It is fixed:
 She is stripped, she is carried away,
 And her handmaids are moaning like the sound of doves,

- Beating on their breasts.
- 8 Though Nineveh *was* like a pool of water throughout her days,
Now they are fleeing;
“Stop, stop,”
But no one turns back.
- 9 Plunder the silver!
Plunder the gold!
For there is no limit to the treasure—
Wealth from every kind of desirable object.
- 10 She is emptied!
Yes, she is desolate and waste!
Hearts are melting and knees knocking!
Also anguish is in the whole body
And all their faces are grown pale!
- 11 Where is the den of the lions
And the feeding place of the young lions,
Where the lion, lioness and lion’s cub prowled,
With nothing to disturb *them*?
- 12 The lion tore enough for his cubs,
Killed *enough* for his lionesses,
And filled his lairs with prey
And his dens with torn flesh.
- 13 “Behold, I am against you,” declares the LORD of hosts. “I will burn up her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard.”

The Woe over Nineveh

- 3:1 Woe to the bloody city, completely full of lies *and* pillage;
Her prey never departs.
- 2 The noise of the whip,
The noise of the rattling of the wheel,
Gallop horses
And bounding chariots!
- 3 Horsemen charging,
Swords flashing, spears gleaming,
Many slain, a mass of corpses,
And countless dead bodies—
They stumble over the dead bodies!
- 4 *All* because of the many harlotries of the harlot,
The charming one, the mistress of sorceries,
Who sells nations by her harlotries
And families by her sorceries.
- 5 “Behold, I am against you,” declares the LORD of hosts;
“And I will lift up your skirts over your face,
And show to the nations your nakedness
And to the kingdoms your disgrace.
- 6 “I will throw filth on you
And make you vile,

- And set you up as a spectacle.
- 7 “And it will come about that all who see you
Will shrink from you and say,
‘Nineveh is devastated!
Who will grieve for her?’
Where will I seek comforters for you?”
- 8 Are you better than No-amon,
Which was situated by the waters of the Nile,
With water surrounding her,
Whose rampart *was* the sea,
Whose wall *consisted* of the sea?
- 9 Ethiopia was *her* might,
And Egypt too, without limits.
Put and Lubim were among her helpers.
- 10 Yet she became an exile,
She went into captivity;
Also her small children were dashed to pieces
At the head of every street;
They cast lots for her honorable men,
And all her great men were bound with fetters.
- 11 You too will become drunk,
You will be hidden.
You too will search for a refuge from the enemy.
- 12 All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit—
When shaken, they fall into the eater’s mouth.
- 13 Behold, your people are women in your midst!
The gates of your land are opened wide to your enemies;
Fire consumes your gate bars.
- 14 Draw for yourself water for the siege!
Strengthen your fortifications!
Go into the clay and tread the mortar!
Take hold of the brick mold!
- 15 There fire will consume you,
The sword will cut you down;
It will consume you as the locust *does*.
Multiply yourself like the creeping locust,
Multiply yourself like the swarming locust.
- 16 You have increased your traders more than the stars of heaven—
The creeping locust strips and flies away.
- 17 Your guardsmen are like the swarming locust.
Your marshals are like hordes of grasshoppers
Settling in the stone walls on a cold day.
The sun rises and they flee,
And the place where they are is not known.
- 18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria;
Your nobles are lying down.
Your people are scattered on the mountains
And there is no one to regather *them*.
- 19 There is no relief for your breakdown,

Your wound is incurable.
All who hear about you
Will clap *their* hands over you,
For on whom has not your evil passed continually?

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Chronological Notes

1) Nahum.

- A) Nahum's prophecy mentions two historical events which allow us to fix an upper and lower bound for the date of the book. The first is the fall of the Egyptian city of Thebes to Assyrian king Ashurbanipal in 663 BC (Nah 3:8–10). The second is the fall of the Assyrian capital Nineveh to the Babylonians in 612 BC (Nah 3). This means that Nahum's prophecy was made between 663 and 612 BC.
- B) There is some evidence that points to Nahum writing shortly after Thebes fell. First, Nahum's description of Nineveh (1:12; 3:1, 4, 16) does not fit the city as it existed between 626 and 612 BC when Ashurbanipal's sons, Ashur-etil-ilani (626–623) and Sin-shar-ishkun (623–612), ruled over it. Second, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was under the yoke of Assyria when Nahum wrote (1:13, 15; 2:1, 3), a condition that marked the reign of Manasseh (697t–643t) more than that of Josiah (641t–609). Third, if Nahum wrote after 654, his rhetorical question in Nahum 3:8 would have had little or no force since Thebes rose to power again in that year. Thus a date of composition between 663 and 654 BC seems most likely.¹

¹ Walter A. Maier, *The Book of Nahum*, pp. 30, 34–37; Richard D. Patterson, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah: An Exegetical Commentary*, pp. 13–14; Thomas L. Constable, "Notes on Nahum," pp. 1–2.