

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 remainder of the acts of Hezekiah, all of his powerful <i>deeds</i>, and how he made the pool and the conduit and brought the water into the city, are they not written in</p> <p>the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Judah?</p> <p>21 Then Hezekiah slept with his ancestors,</p> <p>and Manasseh his son became king in his place.</p>	<p>32 Now the remainder of the words of Hezekiah and his loyal love,</p> <p>behold, they are written in the visions of Isaiah the son of Amoz, the prophet, upon the scroll of the kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>33 And Hezekiah slept with his ancestors, and they buried him in the upper <i>part</i> of the burial sites of the descendants of David. And all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem did him honor at his death.</p> <p>And Manasseh his son 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 happened that he <i>was</i> worshiping in the temple of Nisroch his god, and Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him with the sword. Then they escaped <i>into</i> the land of Ararat, and Esarhaddon his son became king in his place.</p>	<p>38 And this happened: he <i>was</i> bowing in worship <i>in</i> the house of Nisroch his god, and Adrammelech and Sharezer, his sons, struck him with the sword. And they themselves escaped <i>to</i> the land of Ararat, and Esar-haddon his son reigned as king in his place.</p>	<p>21b and went into the house of his god. And some of the offspring of his loins fell upon 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 eyes of Yahweh, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yahweh had driven out from the presence of the Israelites.</p> <p>3 He returned and rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed. He erected altars for Baal and made a pole of Asherah worship just as Ahab king of Israel had made, and he bowed down to all of the host of heaven and served them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the temple of Yahweh <i>about</i> which Yahweh had said, “I will put my name in Jerusalem.”</p> <p>5 He built an altar to all of the host of heaven in the two courtyards of the temple of Yahweh.</p> <p>6 He made his son pass through the fire,</p> <p>practiced soothsaying and divination,</p> <p>and dealt with mediums and spiritists.</p> <p>He increased the doing of evil in the eyes of Yahweh to provoke him.</p> <p>7 He put the image of the Asherah that he had made in the temple which Yahweh had said to David and to Solomon his son, “In this temple and in Jerusalem which I have chosen from all of the tribes of Israel, I will put my name forever.</p> <p>8 I will not again make the feet of Israel wander from the land which I have given to their ancestors, if they only observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, as far as the law that Moses my servant commanded them.”</p> <p>9 But Manasseh did not listen</p>	<p>2 And he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh according to the detestable things of the nations whom Yahweh drove out before the Israelites.</p> <p>3 And he rebuilt the high places that Hezekiah his father broke down, and he set up altars for the Baals, made Asherahs,</p> <p>and bowed down to the host of heaven and served them.</p> <p>4 And he built altars in the house of Yahweh, <i>of</i> which Yahweh had said, “In Jerusalem my name shall be forever.”</p> <p>5 And he built altars to all the host of heaven in the two courtyards of the house of Yahweh.</p> <p>6 And he himself burned his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom. And he practiced sorcery and divination, and he engaged in witchcraft and dealt with mediums and spiritists.</p> <p>And he did much evil in the eyes of Yahweh, to provoke him to anger.</p> <p>7 And he placed the carved image of the idol that he had made in the house of God, <i>of</i> 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.</p> <p>8 And I will never remove the foot of Israel from upon the land that I appointed to your ancestors, if only you will take care to do all that I have commanded them, all the law, the regulations, and the judgments by the hand of Moses.”</p> <p>9 And Manasseh</p>

<p>and tempted them to do evil more than the nations that Yahweh destroyed before the presence of the Israelites.</p> <p>10 So Yahweh spoke by the hand of his servants the prophets, saying,</p> <p>11 “Because Manasseh the king of Judah committed these detestable things <i>and</i> did evil more than the Amorites did who were before him and caused even Judah to sin with his idols,</p> <p>12 therefore, thus says Yahweh the God of Israel, ‘Look, I am bringing disaster upon Jerusalem and Judah about which the two ears of all who hear it will tingle.</p> <p>13 I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line of Samaria and the plumb line of the house of Ahab, and I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes the dish; he wipes it and turns it on its face.</p> <p>14 I will give up the remainder of my inheritance, and I will give them into the hand of their enemies. They shall become as prey and as spoil for all their enemies,</p> <p>15 because they have done evil in my eyes and were provoking me from the day that their ancestors came out from Egypt up to this day.’”</p> <p>16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood until he filled Jerusalem from one end to another, apart from his sin which he caused Judah to sin by doing evil in the eyes of Yahweh.</p>	<p>seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do evil more than the nations that Yahweh destroyed before the Israelites.</p> <p>10 And Yahweh spoke to Manasseh and to his people,</p> <p>but they would not listen.</p>
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Nahum’s Prophecy Against Nineveh (c. 663–654 BC)

Nahum 1–3

Title

1:1 The oracle concerning Nineveh—
the scroll of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite:

The Revelation of God

- 2 Yahweh is a jealous God and avenging;
Yahweh is avenging and full of wrath.
Yahweh takes vengeance against his enemies;
he rages against his adversaries.
- 3 Yahweh is slow to anger but great *in* power;
he will certainly not allow *the guilty* to go unpunished.
He marches in storm wind and in gale;
storm clouds *are the* dust of his feet.
- 4 He rebukes the sea and he dries up the rivers;
he makes all the rivers run dry.
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the blossom of Lebanon languishes.
- 5 Mountains quake before him;
the hills shake apart.
The earth heaves before him—
the world and all her inhabitants.
- 6 His indignation—who can stand before it?
Who can endure his fierce anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire;
rocks are shattered before him.

The LORD’s Care for Judah

- 7 Yahweh is good—a refuge in *the* day of distress;

he knows those who take refuge in him.

- 8 But with a rushing torrent he will bring *Nineveh* to an end;
he will chase his enemies into darkness.
- 9 What do you plot against Yahweh?
He will completely destroy it;
trouble will not rise up a second time!
- 10 For like entangled thorns,
and like their drink which is drunk,
they will be consumed like fully dry chaff.
- 11 From you goes out one who plots evil against Yahweh,
one who plans wickedness.

The LORD's Word for Judah

12 Yahweh says this:

“Even though *they are* powerful 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 And now, I will break his yoke from upon you;
I will snap your bonds.”

The LORD's Word to Nineveh

14 Yahweh has commanded concerning you:

“Your name will no longer be sown.
I will cut off the idols and images from the temple of your gods;
I will send you to the grave because you are worthless.”

Judah Exults in Nineveh's Destruction

- 15 Look! On the mountains!
The feet of the one who brings good tidings,
the one who proclaims peace! [cf. [Isa 52:7](#); [Rom 10:15](#)]
“Celebrate *a festival*, O Judah,
Fulfill your vows!
For he will not invade you again;
the wicked one is cut off completely!”

The LORD's Judgment of Nineveh

- 2:1 One who shatters has come up against you!
Guard *the* fortification!
Watch *the* road!
Gird *your* loins!
Muster all *your* strength!
- 2 For Yahweh will restore the majesty of Jacob
like the majesty of Israel;
for ravagers have ravaged them
and ruined *their* branches.
- 3 The shields of his warriors *are* dyed red;
The powerful men *are* dressed in scarlet.
The metal of the chariots *shines* like fire on the day of battle,
and *their* spears quiver.
- 4 The chariots race madly through the streets;
they rush back and forth in the public squares.
Their appearance like lightning bolts,
they dart about like flashes of lightning.
- 5 He calls his officers;
they stumble as they march;

- they rush to her wall;
they set the covering in place.
- 6 The gates of the river are opened;
the palace trembles.
- 7 Her goddess is taken out and taken into exile;
her maidservants moan like doves;
they beat on their breasts.
- 8 Nineveh *is* like a pool of water without its water.
As they flee, *she cries*, “Stop! Stop!”
But there is no one who turns back.
- 9 Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!
There is no end to the spoils,
an abundance of everything one could want!
- 10 Emptiness and plundering and devastation!
Their hearts faint and their knees tremble,
All their loins shake and all their faces turn pale.
- 11 Where *now is* the den of *the* lions
and *the* cave of the fierce lions?
There the lioness, the cub, and the lion once prowled,
and no one disturbed them.
- 12 The lion tore apart enough *prey* for his cubs,
he strangled *prey* for his lioness;
he filled his lair *with* prey
and his den *with* mangled carcass.
- 13 “Look! I am against you!” declares Yahweh of hosts.
“I will burn her chariots with fire;
the sword will devour fierce lions.
I will cut off your prey from the earth;
the voice of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

The Woe over Nineveh

- 3:1 Woe to the city *that has shed* much blood!
She is a deceiver,
She is filled *with* plunder,
She has hoarded her spoils of war.
- 2 The crack of the whip!
The rumbling of the *chariot* wheel!
The galloping of the horse!
The racing of the chariot!
- 3 Chariots charge!
Swords flash!
Spears glitter!
Many corpses are piled high!
There is no end to the slain!
They stumble over their dead!
- 4 “Because of the many idolatries of *the* prostitute,
the beautiful charm *of* a mistress of witchcraft,
she who enslaves nations by her harlotries,
and peoples by her sorceries,
- 5 “Look! I am against you!” declares Yahweh.
“I will strip up your skirts over your face;
I will let nations look *at* your nakedness and your shame.
- 6 “I will throw filth upon you,
I will treat you with contempt,
I will make you a spectacle.
- 7 “And it will be that everyone who sees you will flee from you,
And they will say, ‘Nineveh is destroyed!’
Who will mourn for her?

- From whence shall I seek comforters for you?"
- 8 Are you better than Thebes?
She who sits at the Nile, surrounded by her waters,
her rampart *was the* sea and water *was* her wall.
- 9 Cush *was* her strength, Egypt without end;
Put and Libya were among your allies.
- 10 Yet she went into captivity as an exile;
her children were dashed to pieces at the head of *the* streets;
they cast lots for all of her nobles;
all of her dignitaries were bound with chains.
- 11 You also will behave like a drunkard;
You also will hide yourself;
You also will seek refuge from *the* enemy.
- 12 All of your fortifications *are like* fig trees with *ripe* firstfruits—
if they are shaken, they will fall into the mouth of the eater.
- 13 Look! Your troops *are like* women in your midst.
The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies;
fire will consume the bars *of your gates*.
- 14 Draw water for a siege!
Strengthen your fortifications!
Go to the mud *pit*!
Trample the clay!
Grasp the brick mold!
- 15 There fire will consume you;
the sword will cut you off.
It will consume you like the locust.
Multiply yourself like the locust!
Multiply yourself like the grasshopper!
- 16 You have increased your merchants more than the stars of heaven;
like the locust they will shed *their skin* and fly away.
- 17 Your officials *are* like locusts;
your commanders *are* like a swarm of locusts.
They encamp on the walls on a cold day;
when the sun rises, they fly away—
no one knows where they have gone.
- 18 Your shepherds are sleeping, *O* king of Assyria!
Your nobles slumber.
Your people are scattered on the mountains;
no one can gather them.
- 19 There is no healing for your wound;
your injury is fatal.
All who hear the report of you will clap *their hands for joy* concerning you,
For who has not suffered at the hands of your endless cruelty?

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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.