

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

2 Kings 20:20–21	2 Chronicles 32:32–33
<p>20 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign and all his accomplishments, including how he built a pool and conduit to bring water into the city, are recorded in</p> <p>the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>21 Hezekiah passed away</p> <p>and his son Manasseh replaced him as king.</p>	<p>32 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign, including his faithful deeds,</p> <p>are recorded in</p> <p>the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, included in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>33 Hezekiah passed away and was buried on the ascent of the tombs of the descendants of David. All the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem buried him with great honor.</p> <p>His son Manasseh replaced him as king.</p>

Sennacherib Murdered By His Own Sons (681 BC)

2 Kings 19:37	Isaiah 37:38	2 Chronicles 32:21b
<p>37 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They escaped to the land of Ararat; his son Esar-haddon replaced him as king.</p>	<p>38 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They ran away to the land of Ararat; his son Esar-haddon replaced him as king.</p>	<p>21b When he entered the temple of his god, some of his own sons struck him down 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 and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out from before the Israelites.</p> <p>3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for Baal and made an Asherah pole just like King Ahab of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the LORD’s temple, about which the LORD had said, “Jerusalem will be my home.”</p> <p>5 In the two courtyards of the LORD’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky.</p> <p>6 He passed his son through the fire</p> <p>and practiced divination and omen reading. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits, and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.</p> <p>7 He put an idol of Asherah he had made in the temple, about which the LORD had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home.</p> <p>8 I will not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I commanded them, the whole law my servant Moses ordered them to obey.”</p> <p>9 But they did not obey, and Manasseh misled them</p> <p>so that they sinned more than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed from before the Israelites.</p> <p>10 So the LORD announced through his servants the prophets:</p> <p>11 “King Manasseh of Judah has committed horrible sins. He has</p>	<p>2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out ahead of the Israelites.</p> <p>3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the LORD’s temple, about which the LORD had said, “Jerusalem will be my permanent home.”</p> <p>5 In the two courtyards of the LORD’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky.</p> <p>6 He passed his sons through the fire in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and practiced divination, omen reading, and sorcery. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of evil in the sight of the LORD and angered him.</p> <p>7 He put an idolatrous image he had made in God’s temple, about which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home.</p> <p>8 I will not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I commanded them, the whole law, the rules and regulations given to Moses.”</p> <p>9 But Manasseh misled the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem so that they sinned more than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed ahead of the Israelites.</p> <p>10 The LORD confronted Manasseh and his people,</p>

sinned more than the Amorites before him and has encouraged Judah to sin by worshiping his disgusting idols.

12 So this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'I am about to bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah. The news will reverberate in the ears of those who hear about it.

13 I will destroy Jerusalem the same way I did Samaria and the dynasty of Ahab. I will wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a plate on both sides.

14 I will abandon this last remaining tribe among my people and hand them over to their enemies; they will be plundered and robbed by all their enemies,

15 because they have done evil in my sight and have angered me from the time their ancestors left Egypt right up to this very day!"

16 Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

but they paid no attention.

Nahum's Prophecy Against Nineveh (c. 663–654 BC)

Nahum 1–3

Title

1:1 The oracle against Nineveh; the book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite:

The Revelation of God

- 2 The LORD is a zealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and very angry.
The LORD takes vengeance against his foes;
he sustains his rage against his enemies.
- 3 The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;
the LORD will certainly not allow the wicked to go unpunished.
He marches out in the whirlwind and the raging storm;
dark storm clouds billow like dust under his feet.
- 4 He shouts a battle cry against the sea and makes it dry up;
he makes all the rivers run dry.
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the blossom of Lebanon withers.
- 5 The mountains tremble before him,
the hills convulse;
the earth is laid waste before him,
the world and all its inhabitants are laid waste.
- 6 No one can withstand his indignation!
No one can resist his fierce anger!
His wrath is poured out like volcanic fire,
boulders are broken up as he approaches.

The LORD's Care for Judah

- 7 The LORD is good—
indeed, he is a fortress in time of distress,
and he protects those who seek refuge in him.
- 8 But with an overwhelming flood
he will make a complete end of Nineveh;
he will drive his enemies into darkness.
- 9 Whatever you plot against the LORD, he will completely destroy!
Distress will not arise a second time.
- 10 Surely they will be totally consumed
like entangled thorn bushes,

like the drink of drunkards,
like very dry stubble.

- 11 From you, O Nineveh, one has marched forth who plots evil against the LORD,
a wicked military strategist.

The LORD's Word for Judah

- 12 This is what the LORD says:
“Even though they are powerful—
and what is more, even though their army is numerous—
nevertheless, they will be destroyed and trickle away!
Although I afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.
- 13 And now, I will break Assyria's yoke bar from your neck;
I will tear apart the shackles that are on you.”

The LORD's Word to Nineveh

- 14 The LORD has issued a decree against you:
“Your dynasty will come to an end.
I will destroy the idols and images in the temples of your gods.
I will desecrate your grave—because you are accursed!”

Judah Exults in Nineveh's Destruction

- 15 Look! A herald is running on the mountains!
A messenger is proclaiming deliverance: [cf. [Isa 52:7](#); [Rom 10:15](#)]
“Celebrate your sacred festivals, O Judah!
Fulfill your sacred vows to praise God!
For never again will the wicked Assyrians invade you,
they have been completely destroyed.”

The LORD's Judgment of Nineveh

- 2:1 The watchmen of Nineveh shout:
“An enemy who will scatter you is marching out to attack you!”
“Guard the rampart!
Watch the road!
Prepare yourselves for battle!
Muster your mighty strength!”
- 2 For the LORD will restore the majesty of Jacob,
as well as the majesty of Israel,
though their enemies have plundered them
and have destroyed their fields.
- 3 The shields of his warriors are dyed red;
the mighty soldiers are dressed in scarlet garments.
The metal fittings of the chariots shine
like fire on the day of battle;
the soldiers brandish their spears.
- 4 The chariots race madly through the streets,
they rush back and forth in the broad plazas;
they look like lightning bolts,
they dash here and there like flashes of lightning.
- 5 The commander orders his officers;
they stumble as they advance;
they rush to the city wall
and they set up the covered siege tower.
- 6 The sluice gates are opened;
the royal palace is deluged and dissolves.
- 7 Nineveh is taken into exile and is led away;
her slave girls moan like doves while they beat their breasts.
- 8 Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days,

- but now her people are running away;
she cries out: “Stop! Stop!”—
but no one turns back.
- 9 Her conquerors cry out:
“Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!”
There is no end to the treasure;
riches of every kind of precious thing.
- 10 Destruction, devastation, and desolation!
Their hearts faint,
their knees tremble,
each stomach churns, each face turns pale!
- 11 Where now is the den of the lions,
the feeding place of the young lions,
where the lion, lioness, and lion cub once prowled
and no one disturbed them?
- 12 The lion tore apart as much prey as his cubs needed
and strangled prey to provide food for his lionesses;
he filled his lairs with prey
and his dens with torn flesh.
- 13 “I am against you!” declares the LORD who commands armies:
“I will burn your chariots with fire;
the sword will devour your young lions;
you will no longer prey upon the land;
the voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

The Woe over Nineveh

- 3:1 Woe to the city guilty of bloodshed!
She is full of lies;
she is filled with plunder;
she has hoarded her spoil!
- 2 The chariot drivers will crack their whips;
the chariot wheels will shake the ground;
the chariot horses will gallop;
the war chariots will bolt forward!
- 3 The charioteers will charge ahead;
their swords will flash and their spears will glimmer!
There will be many people slain;
there will be piles of the dead,
and countless casualties—
so many that people will stumble over the corpses.
- 4 “Because you have acted like a wanton prostitute—
a seductive mistress who practices sorcery,
who enslaves nations by her harlotry,
and entices peoples by her sorcery—
- 5 I am against you,” declares the LORD who commands armies.
“I will strip off your clothes!
I will show your nakedness to the nations
and your shame to the kingdoms;
- 6 I will pelt you with filth;
I will treat you with contempt;
I will make you a public spectacle.
- 7 Everyone who sees you will turn away from you in disgust;
they will say, ‘Nineveh has been devastated!
Who will lament for her?’
There will be no one to comfort you!”
- 8 You are no more secure than Thebes—
she was located on the banks of the Nile;
the waters surrounded her,

- her rampart was the sea,
the water was her wall.
- 9 Cush and Egypt had limitless strength;
Put and the Libyans were among her allies.
- 10 Yet she went into captivity as an exile;
even her infants were smashed to pieces at the head of every street.
They cast lots for her nobility;
all her dignitaries were bound with chains.
- 11 You too will act like drunkards;
you will go into hiding;
you too will seek refuge from the enemy.
- 12 All your fortifications will be like fig trees with first-ripe fruit:
If they are shaken, their figs will fall into the mouth of the eater!
- 13 Your warriors will be like women in your midst;
the gates of your land will be wide open to your enemies;
fire will consume the bars of your gates.
- 14 Draw yourselves water for a siege!
Strengthen your fortifications!
Trample the mud and tread the clay!
Make mud bricks to strengthen your walls!
- 15 There the fire will consume you;
the sword will cut you down;
it will devour you like the young locust would.
Multiply yourself like the young locust;
multiply yourself like the flying locust!
- 16 Increase your merchants more than the stars of heaven!
They are like the young locust which sheds its skin and flies away.
- 17 Your courtiers are like locusts,
your officials are like a swarm of locusts!
They encamp in the walls on a cold day,
yet when the sun rises, they fly away;
and no one knows where they are.
- 18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria!
Your officers are slumbering!
Your people are scattered like sheep on the mountains
and there is no one to regather them!
- 19 Your destruction is like an incurable wound;
your demise is like a fatal injury!
All who hear what has happened to you will clap their hands for joy,
for no one ever escaped 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.