

## THE MESSAGE OF NAHUM AND HABAKKUK

Introduction – Both books are written during the decline of the Assyrian Empire and the rise of the Babylonian Empire (663-605 BC).

A. Nahum predicts the just punishment by God of the ruthless Assyrian Empire.

Nahum 1:1-3, 7

Nahum 3:19

“Judging from the vaunted inscriptions of her kings, no power more useless, more savage, more terrible, ever cast its gigantic shadow on the page of history as it passed on the way to ruin. They exult to record ‘space failed for corpses,’ how unsparing a destroyer is their goddess Istar; how they flung away the bodies of soldiers like clay; how they made pyramids of human heads; how they burned cities; how they filled populous lands with death and devastation; how they impaled heaps of men on stakes; how they cut off the heads of Kings and nailed them on walls, and left their bodies to rot for the dogs at the city gates; how they employed nations of captives in making bricks while chained, or killed them like wild animals, and covered pillars with the flayed skins of rival monarchs.” (Farrar, The Minor Prophets, pages 147-148)

B. Habakkuk questions the justice of God

1. He complains to the Lord about the injustice and evil he witnesses in Judah.

Habakkuk 1:2-4

2. The Lord responds that He will use the pagan Babylonians to punish Judah.

Habakkuk 1:5-6

3. Habakkuk complains that using Babylon appears unjust to him.

Habakkuk 1:12-13

4. God promises to punish Babylon in the future for her evil behaviors.

Habakkuk 2:2-4

5. Habakkuk offers a prayer of faith in the midst of uncertainty and suffering.

Habakkuk 3:16-18

Conclusion – God has demonstrated He is just in dealing with nations and individuals.

Romans 1:16-18