

## The Half Hour That Changes the World

**Nahum**

**Book 34**

### **Basic Questions behind the book:**

*Where is God in all of this?*

### **Summary of book:**

The book of Nahum is almost unique in the Bible, (with only the book of Jonah coming close to this one). Nahum addresses his message to Nineveh in Assyria, the nation which destroyed Israel.

Nahum pronounces God's anger against Assyria. He predicts that another nation will destroy it. While in Jonah Nineveh was given a chance to repent, no such chance has been given here in the book of Nahum. Scholars are divided as to whether Nahum was foretelling the fall of Nineveh, or describing the event. Many also believe that Nahum had this book written as a liturgy, to be used in one of the Festivals.

### **Vital Statistics:**

Purpose: To pronounce God's judgement on Assyria and to comfort Judah with this truth that their suffering would be avenged by God.

Author: Nahum.

Recipients: The people of Nineveh and Judah.

Dating: Some time during Nahum's prophetic ministry years (maybe around 663 - 612 BC)

Setting: This specific prophesy has taken place after the fall of Thebes in 663 BC.

### **Reflections:**

Nahum might sound a bit harsh here, but we remember that he has suffered at the hands of the Assyrians. He believes that what they are getting now is deserved, as God is just.

*"The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness. Whatever they plot against the Lord he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time." (1:7-9)*