

The background of the entire slide is a photograph of a tall, weathered stone tower, possibly a bell tower or a church spire, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The tower has several arched windows and a crenellated top. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

The LORD IS GOOD

KOH CHIEN AUN | 7 APRIL 2019

*"The LORD is good, a **STRONGHOLD** in the day of trouble;
and He knows those who trust in Him."*

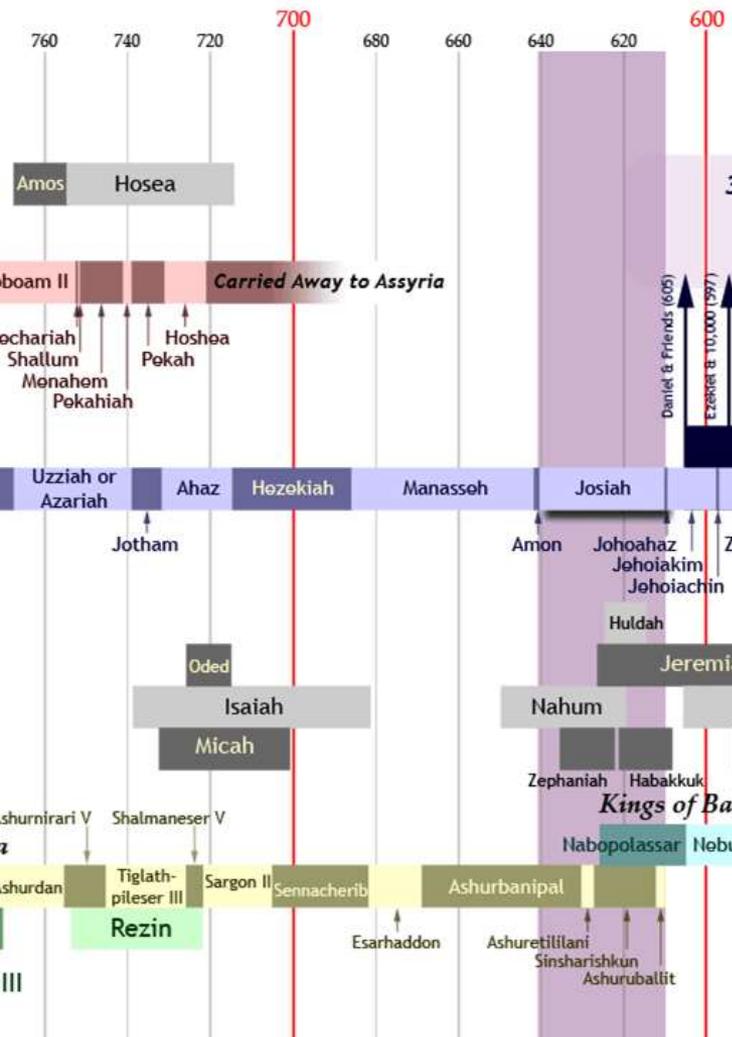
NAHUM 1:7



The LORD is good

—

NAHUM 1:7-8



Nahum

- Nahum - means ‘comforter’
- Written somewhere around 640 BC
- A book that is suppose to assure and comfort the people of Judah.
- Prophesies the destruction of the Assyrian empire and Nineveh.
- Speaks simultaneously of God’s judgement and redemption



The Neo-Assyrians and Nineveh

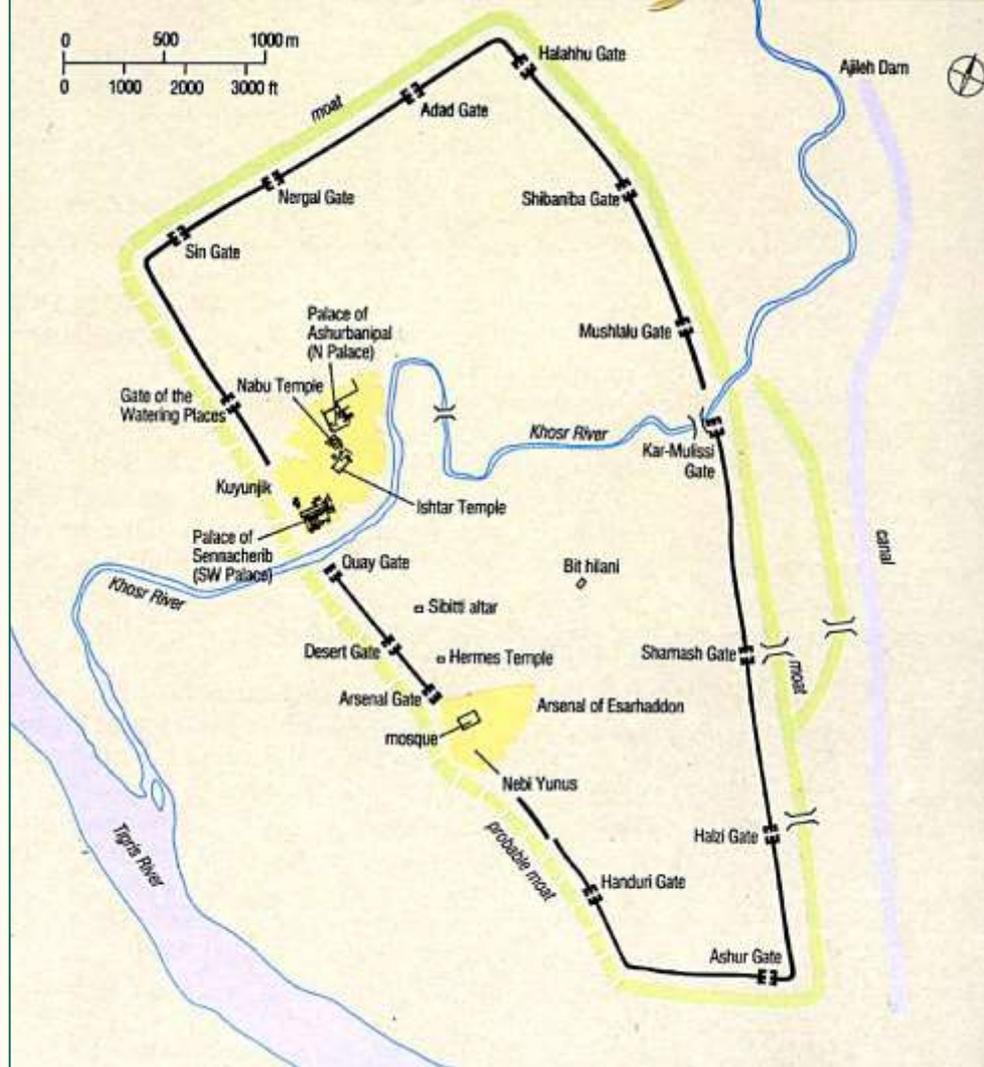
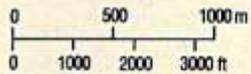


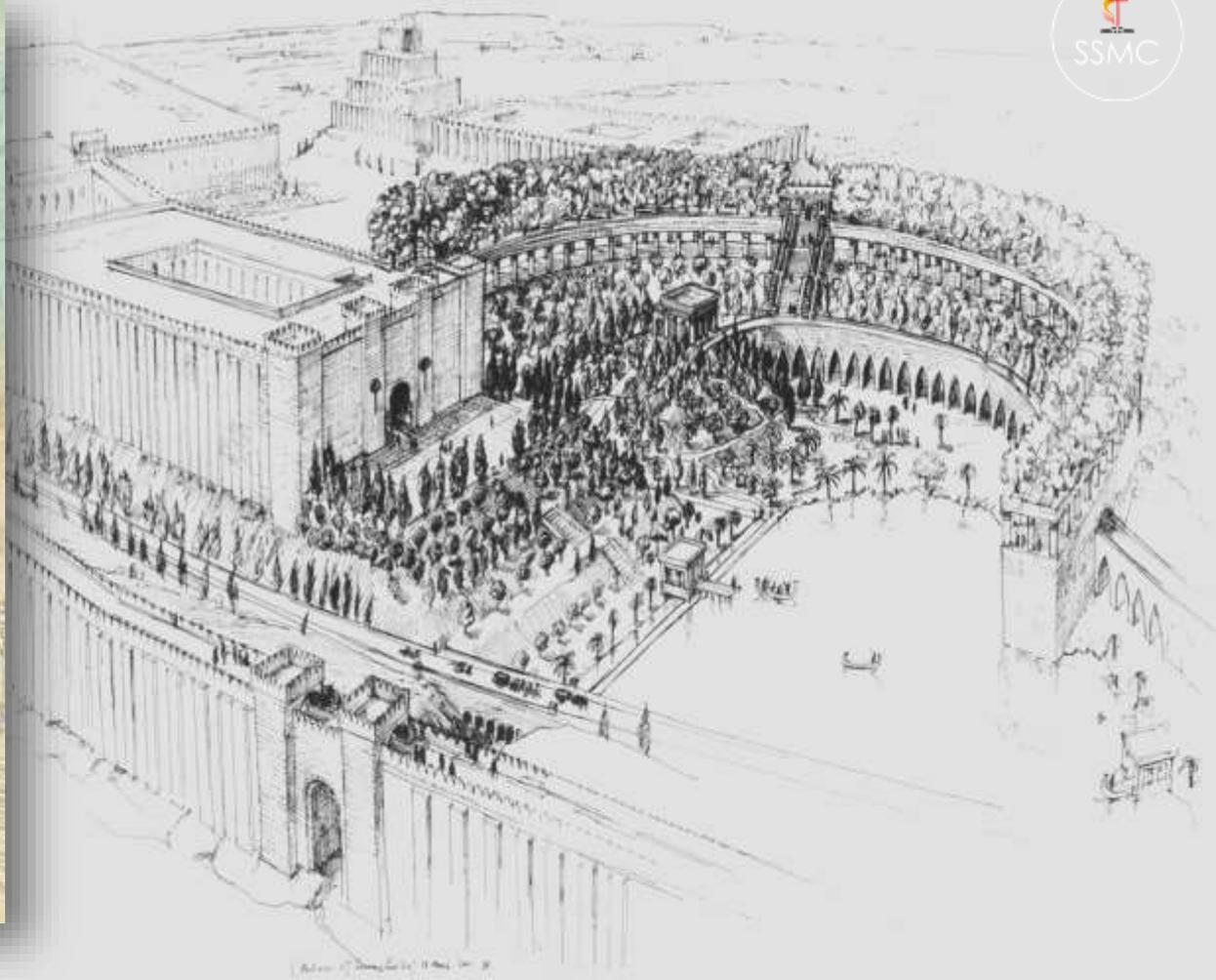
- **Conquered Babylon, Israel and almost all of Judah**
- **Powerful**
- **Arrogant**
- **King Sennacherib made Nineveh into the impressive city it was known for.**



ALAMY

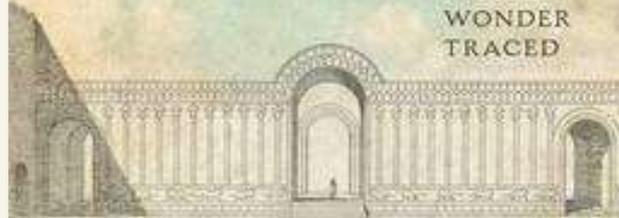
Archaeologist Henry Layard's image of Nineveh.





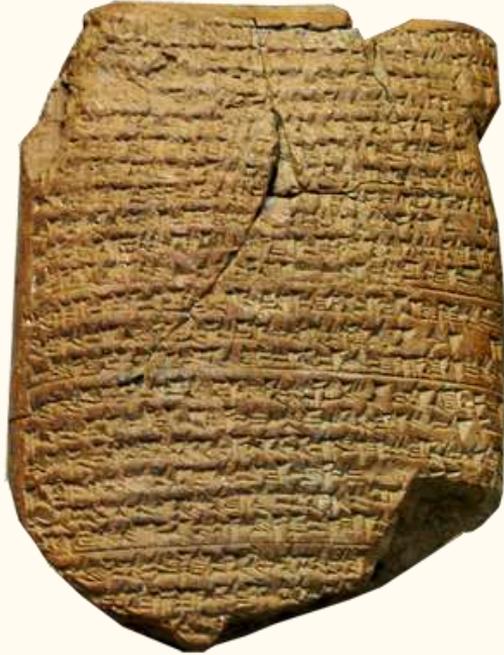
'Immensely interesting'
Robin Lane Fox, *Financial Times*

THE MYSTERY OF THE
**HANGING
GARDEN** *of*
BABYLON AN
ELUSIVE
WORLD
WONDER
TRACED



STEPHANIE DALLEY

612 BC - Fall of Nineveh



"[Y12] The twelfth year: In the month Âbu the Medes, after they had matched against Nineveh [lacuna], hastened and they captured Tarbisu, a city in the district of Nineveh. They went along the Tigris and encamped against Aššur.

They did battle against the city and destroyed it. They inflicted a terrible defeat upon a great people, plundered and sacked them.

The king of Akkad and his army, who had gone to help the Medes, did not reach the battle in time.

The city was taken.

- **Babylonian Chronicles**



The fall of Nineveh, (1829) by John Martin



Xenophon, *Anabasis* 3.4.7-12

"...they marched one stage, six parasangs, to a great stronghold, deserted and lying in ruins. The name of this city was Mespila, and it was once inhabited by the Medes.

The foundation of its wall was made of polished stone full of shells, and was fifty feet in breadth and fifty in height.

Upon this foundation was built a wall of brick, fifty feet in breadth and a hundred in height; and the circuit of the wall was six parasangs"



هدم الآثار الشركية في مدينة الموصل



National Geographic has received exclusive photographs that appear to confirm the destruction of the Mashki and Adad Gates by the Islamic State (ISIS) at the ancient site of Nineveh in Iraq. A mosque dedicated to the prophet Jonah inside the walls of Nineveh was destroyed by ISIS in July 2014.



Nahum 1:7-8

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble;
He knows those who take refuge in Him.

But with an overflowing flood
He will make a complete end of the adversaries,
and will pursue His enemies into darkness.



2 Fundamental Truths about God's nature

1. **He redeems and protects His people (v.7) -**
The LORD is good, **a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him.**
2. **He judges and punishes His enemies (v.8) -**
But with an overflowing flood **He will make a complete end of the adversaries,** and **will pursue His enemies into darkness.**



God's Punishment & Judgement

- **Slow in coming** (Nahum 1:3; Psalms 86:15)
- **God cannot and will not be mocked**
(Nahum 1:6)
- **It is complete** (Nahum 1:14-15;
Zephaniah 2:13)
- **Consequence of sin** (Nahum 1-3; Isaiah)

God's Protection/Redemption

- **Is for His people (Nahum 1:7)**
- **Desires it for others (Jonah)**
- **Is trustworthy**
- **Is complete - perfected through Christ**

Judgement/Punishment and Protection/Redemption

- Interlinked and cannot be separated.
- The appreciation of the latter increases our understanding of the former.



2 Timothy 2:10-13

Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him;
if we endure, we will also reign with Him;
if we deny Him, He also will deny us;
if we are faithless, He remains faithful —
for He cannot deny Himself.



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Nahum 1:7

The LORD *is good...*



Application

The need for a healthy fear of the Lord - Set your house in order

I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body,
and after that have nothing more that they can do.

**But I will warn you whom to fear: fear Him who,
after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell.**

Yes I tell you, fear Him!

- Luke 12:4-5



Application

Seek refuge from God and fear not man -

Run to God in times of trouble

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies?

And not one of them is forgotten before God.

Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- Luke 12:4-5



Psalm 34:8

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.



Application

**The important message of Christ
(John 3:16-21)**



John 3:16-21

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The background of the slide features a dramatic sunset sky with vibrant orange, red, and purple hues. In the foreground, three dark silhouettes of crosses stand on a dark, rolling hillside. The central cross is the tallest, flanked by two shorter crosses.

Christ is coming again!

- We must be vigilant
- We must not give up



Revelations 22:12-15

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with Me, to repay each one for what he has done.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.