

HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT OF NAHUM'S PROPHECIES

(Elliott Johnson in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*)

NAHUM'S PROPHECIES	HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT
The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured (3:12)	According to the Babylonian Chronicle the fortified towns in Nineveh's environs began to fall in 614 B.C. including Tabris, present-day Sharif-Khan, a few miles northwest of Nineveh.
The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls (3:14)	A.T. Olmstead reported: "To the south of the gate, the moat is still filled with fragments of stone and of mud bricks from the walls, heaped up when they were breached" (History of Assyria. Otica.go: University of Ouca.go Press, 1951, p. 637).
The city gates would be destroyed (3:13)	Olmstead noted: "The main attack was directed from the northwest and the brunt fell upon the Hatamti gate at this corner Within the gate are traces of the counter wall raised by the inhabitants in their last extremity" (History of Assyria, p. 637).
In the final hours of the attack the Ninevites would be drunk (1:10; 3:11)	Diodorus Siculus (ca. 20 B.C.) wrote, "The Assyrian king ... distributed to his soldiers meats and liberal supplies of wine and provisions While the whole army was thus carousing, the friends of Arbakes learned from some deserters of the slackness and drunkenness which prevailed in the enemy's camp and made an unexpected attack by night" (Bibliotheca Historica 2. 26. 4)
Nineveh would be destroyed by a flood (1:8; 2:6, 8)	Diodorus wrote that in the third year of the siege heavy rains caused a nearby river to flood part of the city and break part of the walls (Bibliolheca Historica 2. 26. 9; 2. 27. 13). Xenophon referred to terrifying thunder (presumably with a storm) associated with the city's capture (Anabosis, 3. 4. 12). Also the Khosr River, entering the city from the northwest at the Ninlil Gate and running through the city in a southwesterly direction, may have flooded because of heavy rains, or the enemy may have destroyed its sluice gate.
Nineveh would be destroyed by fire (1:10; 2:13; 3:15)	Archeological excavations at Nineveh have revealed charred wood, charcoal, and ashes. "There was no question about the clear traces of the burning of the temple (as also in the palace of Sennacherib), for a layer of ash about two inches thick lay clearly defined in places on the southeast side about the level of the Sargon pavement" (R. Campbell Thompson and R.W. Hutchinson, <i>A Century of Exploration at Nineveh</i> London: Luzac, 1929, pp. 45, 77)
The city's capture would be attended by a great massacre of people (3:3)	"In two battles fought on the plain before the city the rebels defeated the Assyrians.... So great was the multitude of the slain that the flowing stream, mingled with their blood, changed its color for a considerable distance" (Diodorus, Bibliotheca Historica 2. 26. 6-7).

Plundering and pillaging would accompany the overthrow of the city (2:9-10)	According to the Babylonian Chronicle, "Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carted off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap" (Luckenbill, <i>Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia 2</i> , :420)
When Nineveh would be captured its people would try to escape (2:8)	"Sardanapalus [another name for King Sin-shar-ishkun] sent away his three sons and two daughters with much treasure into Paphlagonia, to the governor of Kattos, the most loyal of his subjects" (Diodorus, <i>Bibliotheca Historica</i> , 2. 26. 8)
The Ninevite officers would weaken and flee (3:17)	The Babylonian Chronicle states that "[The army] of Assyria deserted [lit., ran away before] the king" (Luckenbill, <i>Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia 2</i> , :420)
Nineveh's images and idols would be destroyed (1:14)	R. Campbell Thompson and R.W. Hutchinson reported that the statue of the goddess Ishtar lay headless in the debris of Nineveh's ruins (" <i>The British Museum Excavations on the Temple of Ishtar at Nineveh, 1930-1</i> ," <i>Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology</i> 19, pp. 55-6)
Nineveh's destruction would be final (1:9, 14)	Many cities of the ancient Near East were rebuilt after being destroyed (e.g., Samaria, Jerusalem, Babylon) but not Nineveh.

