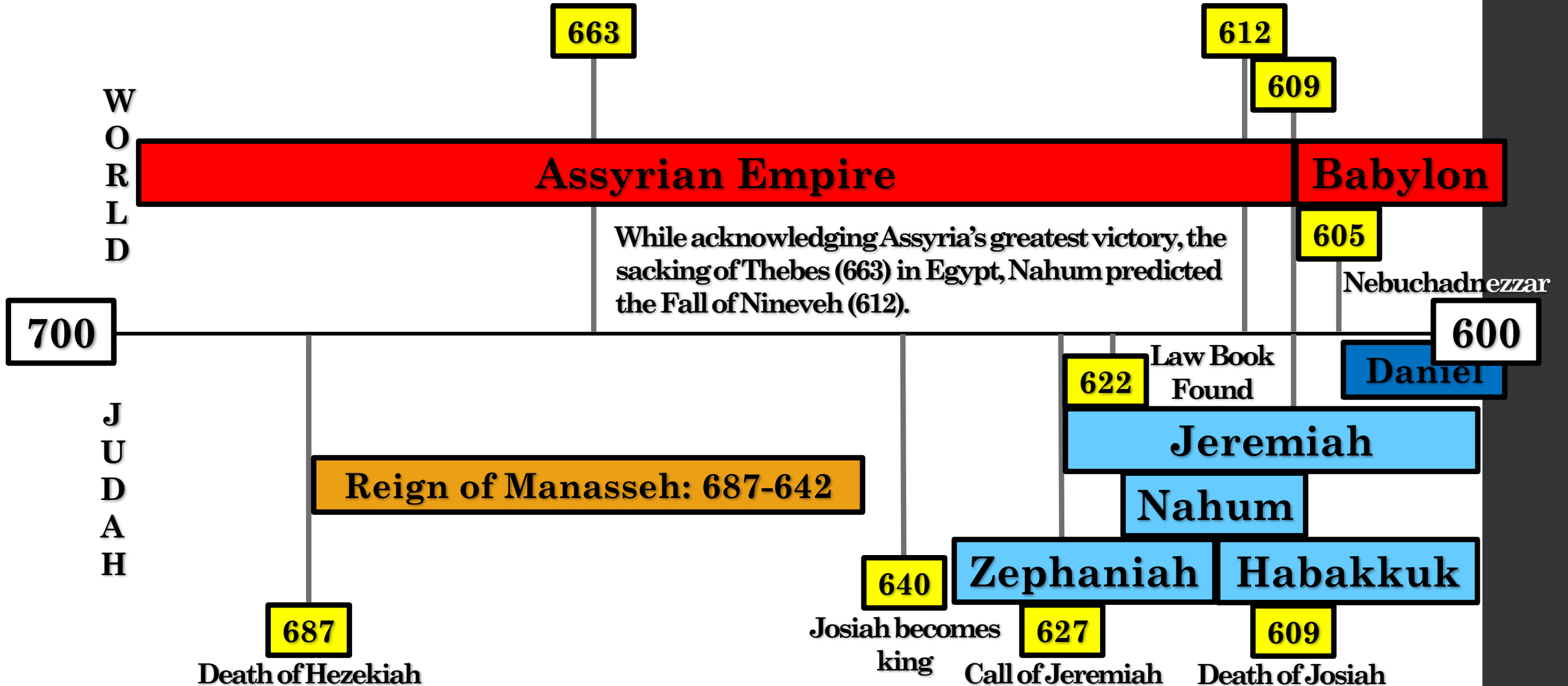


Book of Nahum

Old Testament Workshop
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
March 29, 2020

Historical Context



Biographical Data

The Book of Nahum is 47 verses. Personal information about the prophet occurs in just one verse, the first verse.

Nahum means “comfort” or “consolation,” words that Judah would have used to describe his message.

No Information Available

Nahum is identified by his birthplace, not by his occupation nor by his father’s name (compare to Micah).

The name Nahum appears in the genealogy of Jesus (**Lk. 3:25**), but does it refer to the prophet or someone else?

Biographical Data

Hometown

Elkosh (1:1)

“The location of Elkosh is not known.”

Ralph L. Smith, *Word Biblical Commentary*

[a] 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem (JUDAH)

[b] Capernaum (GALILEE)

[c] 25 miles north of Nineveh (MESOPOTAMIA)

Ministry

Location and Time: 7th Century Judah (Southern Kingdom)

After

663 BC | reported destruction of Thebes (3:8-10)

Before

612 BC | predicted destruction of Nineveh (2:1, 3-13; 3:1-7, 11-15b)

Jonah vs. Nahum

Jonah

Nahum

8 th Century BC	Time Period	7 th Century BC
Location of Ministry	Nineveh	Focus of Message
He preached Nineveh's downfall, but it did NOT happen because Nineveh repented. God was merciful, angering him.	Impact of His Ministry	He preached Nineveh's downfall and it happened, pleasing God's people.
<i>"You are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger."</i> (4:2)	Features of Their Books	<i>"The Lord is slow to anger and great in power."</i> (1:3)
The last verse (4:11) is a question.		The last verse (3:19) is a question.



**Thank you,
Ken Mraz!**





Overview of Nahum

“As a literary craftsman Nahum has no superior and few peers among the Old Testament poets.”

La Sor, Hubbard, and Bush, *Old Testament Survey*

Chapter 1 is primarily a psalm.

A partial acrostic appears in **verses 2-8**; the first eleven Hebrew letters.

“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and he knows those who take refuge in him.” (1:7)

Chapters 2-3 are prophecy.

Hearers would have responded, “Impossible!” The Neo-Assyrian Empire, led by Ashurbanipal, its greatest king, just celebrated its biggest conquest, the Egyptian city of Thebes (**3:8-10**).

Outline of Nahum

- 1:1** Title
- 1:2-8** Theme: **GOD IS JUDGE**
Theophany—God appears; his presence affects nature (1:4-5)
- 1:9-11** Assyria: **JUDGMENT**
- 1:12-13** Judah: **HOPE**
- 1:14** Assyria: **JUDGMENT**
- 1:15** Judah: **HOPE**
- 2:1** Fall of Nineveh
- 2:2** Judah: **HOPE**
- 2:3-3:7** Fall of Nineveh
(described by Nahum as if he were an eyewitness)
- 3:8-10** Fall of Thebes
(invasion by the Assyrian ruler Ashurbanipal)
- 3:11-15a** Fall of Nineveh
- 3:15b-19** Assyria: **JUDGMENT (Taunt)**