

NAHUM

THE ARGUMENT.

As they of Ninevéh shewed them selves prompt and ready to receive the word of God at Jonah's preaching, and so turned to the Lord by repentance so after a certain time rather giving them selves to worldlie means to increase their dominion, then seeking to continue in the fear of God, and trade wherein they had begonne, they cast off the care of religion, and so returned to their vomite, and provoked God's just judgement against them, in afflicting his people. Therefore their citie Ninevéh was destroyed, and Meróch-baladan King of Babél (or as some think Nebuchad-nezzár) enjoyed the empire of the Assyrians. But because God hath a continual care of his Church, he stirreth up his Prophet to comfort the godlie, shewing that the destruction of their enemies shulde be for their consolation. And as it semeth, he prophecied about the time of Hezekiáh, and not in the time of Manasséh his son, as the Jewes write.

Chapter 1

Of the destruction of the Assyrians, & of the deliverance of Israél.

The ^aburden of Ninevéh. 2 ^bThe book of the vision of Nahúm the ^eElkeshite. God *is* ^djealous, & the Lord revengeth: the Lord revengeth: even the Lord ^eof anger, the Lord wil take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies.
3 The ^fLord *is* slow to anger, but *he is* great in power, and wil not surely clear *the wicked*: the Lord *hath* his way in the whirl wind, and in the storm, and the clouds *are* the dust of his feet.
4 He rebuketh the sea, & dryeth it, & he dryeth up all the rivers: Bashán is wasted & Carmél, & the floure of Lebanón is wasted.
5 The mountains tremble for him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burnt at his sight, yea, the world, & all that dwell therein.
6 ^gWho can stand before his wrath? or who can abide in the fierceness of his wrath? his wrath is powred out like fire, and the rocks are broken by him,
7 The Lord is good ^hand as a strong hold in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in him.
8 But passing over as with a flood, he will utterly destroy the ⁱplace thereof, and darkness shal pursue his enemies.
9 What do ye ^jimagine against the Lord? he will make an utter destruction: affliction shal not rise up the second time.
10 For *he shal come* as unto ^kthornes folden one in another, and as unto drunkards in their drunkenness: they shalbe devoured as stubble fully dried.
11 There ^mcometh one out of thee that imagineth evil against the Lord, *even a wicked counselour*.
12 Thus saith the Lord, Though they be ⁿquiet, and also many,

1 a Read Isa. 33.1.

2 b The vision or revelation, which God commanded Nahum to write concerning the Ninevites.

2 c That is, born of a poor village in the tribe of Simeon.

2 d Meaning, of his glory.

2 e With his he is but angry for a time, but his anger never aswages toward the reprobate, though for a time he defers it.

3 f Thus the wicked would make God's mercy an occasion to sin, but the Prophet wills them to consider his force and justice.

6 g If all creatures be at God's commandment and none is able to resist his wrath, shall man flatter himself and think by any means to escape when he provokes his God to anger?

7 h Lest the faithful should be discourage by hearing the power of God, he shows them that his mercies appertain unto them, and that he has care over them.

8 i Signifying, that God will suddenly destroy Nineveh, and the Assyrians in such sort as they shall lie in perpetual darkness, and never recover their strength again.

9 k He shows that the enterprises of the Assyrians against Judah and the Church, were against God, and therefore he would so destroy them at once, that he should not need to return the second time.

10 l Though the Assyrians think themselves like thorns that prick on all sides yet the Lord will set fire on them, and as drunken men are not able to stand against any force, so they shall be nothing able to resist him.

11 m Which may be understand either of Saneherib, or of the whole body of the people of Nineveh.

12 n Though they think themselves in most safety, and of greatest strength yet when God shall pass by, he will destroy them: notwithstanding he comforts his Church and promises to make an end of punishing them by the Assyrians.

yet thus shal they be cut off when he shal pass by: though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

13 For now I will break his yoke from thee, and will burst thy bonds in sondre.

14 And the Lord hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be ^osowen: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven, and the molten image: I will make it thy grave for thee, for thou art vile.

15 ^pBehold upon the mountains the feet of him that declareth, and publisheth ^qpeace: ô Judáh, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shal no more pass through thee: he is utterly cut off.

Chapter 2

He describeth the victories of the Caldeans against the Assyrians.

The ^adestroyer is come before thy face: keep thy munition, look to the way: make *thy* loins strong: increase *thy* strength mightly.

2 For the Lord hath ^bturned away the glorie of Jaakób, as the glorie of Israél: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and ^cmarred their vine branches.

3 The shield of his mightie men is made red: ^dthe valiant men are in scarlet: the charets *shalbe* as in the fire *and* flames in the day of his preparation, and ^ethe fir trees shal tremble.

4 The charets shal rage in the streets: they shal run to and fro in the hie ways: they shal seem like lamps: they shal shoot like the lightening.

5 ^fHe shal remember his strong men: they shal stumble as they go: they shal make haste to the walls thereof, and the defense shalbe prepared.

6 The gates of the rivers shalbe opened, & the palace shal melt.

7 And Huzzáb *the Queen* shalbe led away captive, and her maids shal lead *her* as with the voice of doves, smiting upon their breasts.

8 But Nineveh is ^gof old like a pool of water: yet they shal flee away. Stand, stand, *shal they cry*: but none shal look back.

14 o Meaning Saneherib, who should have no more children, but be slain in the house of his gods, 2 Kings 19.35.

15 ^pIsa. 52.7, Rom. 10.15.

15 p Which peace the Jews should enjoy by the death of Saneherib.

Chapter 2

1 a That is, Nebuchad-nezzar is in a readiness to destroy the Assyrians: and the Prophet derides the enterprises of the Assyrians which prepare to resist him.

2 b Seeing God has punished his own people Judah and Israel, he will now punish the enemies by whom he scourged them, read Is. 10.12.

2 c Signifying, that the Israelites were utterly destroyed.

3 d Both to fear the enemy, and also that they themselves should not so soon espy blood one of another to discourage them.

3 e Meaning, their spears should shake and crash together.

5 f Then the Assyrians shall seek by all means to gather their power, but all things shall fail them.

8 g The Assyrians will flatter themselves and say, that Nineveh is so ancient that it can never perish, and is as a fish pool, whose waters they that walk on the banks can not touch, but they shall be scattered, and shal not look back though men would call them.

9 ^h Spoil ye the silver, spoil the gold: for there is none end of the store, *and* glorie of all the pleasant vessels.

10 ⁱ She is empty and void and waste, and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and sorrow is in all loins, and the faces ^k of them all gather blackness.

11 Where is the ^l dwelling of the Lyons, and the pasture of the Lyon's whelps? where the Lyon, *and* the Lyonesse walked, *and* the Lyon's whelp, and none made them afraid.

12 The Lyon did tear in pieces ynough for his whelps, and worried for his Lyonesse, & filled his holes with prey, & his dens with spoil.

13 Behold, I *come* unto thee, saith the Lord of hostes, and I will burn her charets in the ^m smoke, and the sword shal devour thy yong Lyons, and I will cut off thy spoil from the earth, and the voice of thy ⁿ messengers shal no more be heard.

Chapter 3

1 Of the fall of Ninevéh. 8 No power can escape the hand of God.

O Bloody city, it is all full of lies, *and* robbery: ^a the prey departeth not: 2 The noise of a whip, ^b and the noise of the moving of the wheels, and the beating of the horses, and the leaping of th charets.

3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword, and the glittering spear, and a multitude *is* slain, and the dead bodies *are* many: there *is* none end of their corpses: they stumble upon their corpses.

4 Because of the multitude of the fornications of the ^c harlot that is beautiful, and is a mastresse of witchcraft, & selleth the people through her whoredom, and the nations through her witchcrafts.

5 Behold, I *come* upon thee, saith the Lord of hostes, and will

9 ^h God commands the enemies to spoil Nineveh, and promises them infinite riches, and treasures.

10 ⁱ That is, Nineveh, and the men thereof shall be after this sort.

10 ^k Read, Joel 2.6.

11 ^l Meaning Nineveh, whose inhabitants were cruel like the lion and given to all oppression and spared no violence or tyranny to provide for their wives, and children.

13 ^m That is, assoon as my wrath begins to kindle.

13 ⁿ Signifying, the heralds, which were accustom to proclaim war. Some read of your gum teeth wherewith Nineveh was want to bruise the bones of the poor.

Chapter 3

1 ^a It never ceased to spoil and rob.

2 ^b He shows how the Caldeans shall haste, and how courageous their horses shall be in beating the ground when they come against the Assyrians.

4 ^c He compares Nineveh to an harlot, which by her beauty and subtlety entices young men, and brings them to destruction.

discover thy skirts upon thy face, and will shewe the nations thy filthiness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

6 And I will cast filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazing stock.

7 And it shal come to pass that all they that look upon thee, shal flee from thee, and say, Ninevéh is destroyed, who will have pity upon her? where shal I seek comforters for thee?

8 Art thou better then ^d No, *which* was full of people? that lay in the rivers, and *had* the waters round about it? whose ditch was the sea, *and* her wall *was* from the sea?

9 Ethiopia and Egypt *were* her strength and there *was* none end. Put and Lubim *were* ^e her helpers.

10 Yet *was* she carried away, *and* went into captivity: her young children also were dashed in pieces at the head of all the streets: and they cast lots for her noble men, and all her mighty men *were bound* in chains.

11 Also thou shalt be drunken: thou shalt hide thy self, and shalt seek help because of the enemy.

12 All thy strong cities *shalbe like* figtrees with the first ripe figs: for if they be shaken, they fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, thy people within thee are women: the gates of thy land shalbe opened unto thine enemies, *and* the fire shal devour thy bars.

14 Draw thee waters for the siege: fortify thy strong holds: go into the clay, and temper the mortar: make strong brick.

15 There shal the fire devour thee: the sword shal cut thee off: it shal eat thee up like the ^f locusts, *though* thou be multiplied like the locusts, *and* multiplied like the grasshopper.

16 Thou hast multiplied thy marchantes above the stars of heaven: the locust spoileth and flieth away.

17 Thy princes *are* as the grasshoppers, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers which remain in the hedges in the cold day: *but* when the sun ariseth, they flee away and their place is not known where they are.

18 Thy ^g shepherdes do sleep, ô King of Asshúr: thy strong men lie down: thy people *is* scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth *them*.

19 There is no healing of thy wound: thy plague is grievous: all that hear the bruite of thee, shal clap the hands over thee: for upon ^h whom hath not thy malice passed continually?

8 ^d Meaning, Alexandria, which was in league with so many nations, and yet was now destroyed.

9 ^e Or, your.

15 ^e Signifying, that God's judgements should suddenly destroy the Assyrians, as these vermin are with rain or change of weather.

18 ^f Your princes and counselors.

19 ^g Meaning, that there was no people, to who the Assyrians had not done hurt.