

# Nahum

The Woe of Nineveh ([Nahum 3](#)) (1/2)

**Galatians 6:7: Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

## Read: The Woe of Nineveh (Nahum 3)

## Explain: The Woe of Nineveh (Nahum 3) (1/2)

### Are there any literary/structural observations?

**Nahum** is \_\_\_\_\_

In **Nahum 3**, the focus continues to be on \_\_\_\_\_ downfall

### Are there any repeated words?

You/your/yourself (\_\_\_), I (\_\_\_), locust (\_\_\_), great (3), harlot/harlotries (\_\_\_), no (3), cast (2), corpses (2), devour (2), enemies/enemy (2), fig/figs (2), fire (2), flee (2), gates (2), many (2), men (2), multitude (2), nations (2), noise (2), pass/passed (2), people (2), sea (2), seek (2), sorceries (2), strongholds (2), swarming (2), sword (2), water/waters (2)

## Basics of Hebrew Verbs

A Hebrew verb has a person, a number, a gender, a voice, an aspect, a stem, and a conjugation.

1. **Person:** the relationship between the verb and the speaker (first, second, third)
2. **Number:** whether one or more than one subject is referenced (singular, plural)
3. **Gender:** the sex of the referent (masculine, feminine, common)
4. **Voice:** the relationship of the action of the verb to the subject (active, passive, reflexive)
5. **Aspect/mode:** the kind of action expressed by a verb (simple, intensive, causal)
6. **Stems** (variants are in parenthesis): an offshoot of the root indicating the properties of voice and aspect
  - **Qal** (qal): simple action, active voice
  - **Nifal** (niphil): simple (normal) action, passive voice
  - **Piel** (polel, poel, pilpel, palel, pealal, pilel): intensive (strong) action, active voice
  - **Pual** (polal, poal, polpal, pulal, poalal): intensive (strong) action, passive voice
  - **Hifil** (hiphil, tiphel): causal (caused to) action, active voice
  - **Hofal** (hophal, hothpael): causal (caused to) action passive voice
  - **Hitpael** (hithpolel, hithpapel, nithpael, hishtafel, nitpalel, hothpael, hithpael, hithpoel): intensive (strong) action, reflexive (performed on self) voice
7. **Conjugation.** Each stem can be conjugated in one of the following eight ways.
  - **Perfect:** simple, completed action
  - **Imperfect:** incomplete or progressive action
  - **Cohortative:** 1st person command
  - **Imperative:** 2<sup>nd</sup> person command
  - **Jussive:** 3<sup>rd</sup> person command
  - **Infinitive construct:** a verbal noun
  - **Infinitive absolute:** a grammatical intensifier
  - **Participle:** verbal adjective

Summarized and adapted from [Hebrew4Christians.com](http://Hebrew4Christians.com), [blb.org](http://blb.org), Strong's Concordance, and [lib.haifa.ac.il](http://lib.haifa.ac.il).

## What do the words mean? (1/2)

**1 Woe** [ah, alas, ho, O, woe] **to the bloody city!**

**It is all full of lies and robbery.**

**Its victim** [leaf, meat, prey, spoil] **never departs** [hiphil; imperfect; cease, depart, go back, remove, take away].

**2 The noise of a whip** [scourge, whip]

**And the noise of rattling** [commotion, confused noise, earthquake, fierceness, quaking, rattling, rushing, shaking] **wheels,**

**Of galloping** [qal; active participle; pause] **horses,**

**Of clattering** [piel; participle; dance, jump, leap, skip] **chariots!**

**3 Horsemen charge** [hiphil; participle] **with bright** [blade, bright, flame, glittering] **sword and glittering** [(fire-) brand, (burning) lamp, lightning, torch] **spear** [javelin, spear].

**There is a multitude** [abundance(-antly), all, excellent, great(-ly, -ness, number), huge, be increased, long, many, more in number, most, much, multitude, plenty(-ifullly)] **of slain** [kill, profane, slain (man), (deadly) wounded],

**A great** [grievousness, heavy, great number] **number of bodies** [carcass, corpse, dead body],

**Countless** [border, brim, brink, edge, end, (in-) finite, frontier, outmost coast, quarter, shore, (out-) side, ut(-ter-) most (part)] **corpses** [(dead) body, carcass, corpse]—

**They stumble** [niphil; imperfect; bereave, cast down, be decayed, (cause to) fail, (cause, make to) fall (down, -ing), feeble, be (the) ruin(-ed, of), (be) overthrown, (cause to) stumble, be weak] **over the corpses** [(dead) body, carcass, corpse]—

**4 Because of the multitude of harlotries** [whoredom] **of the seductive** [(first word); beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, at ease, (be in) favor, fine, glad, good (deed, -lier, -lied, -ly, -ness, -s), graciously, joyful, kindly, kindness, likes (best), loving, merry, pleasant, pleases, pleasure, precious, prosperity, ready, sweet, wealth, welfare, (be) well(-favored); (second word): favor, grace(-ious), pleasant, precious, (well-) favored] **harlot** [qal; active participle; (cause to) commit fornication, (be an, play the) harlot, (cause to be, play the) whore, (commit, fall to) whoredom, (cause to) go a-whoring, whorish],

**The mistress of sorceries** [sorcery, witchcraft],

**Who sells** [qal; active participle] **nations** [Gentile, heathen, nation, people] **through her harlotries,**

**And families through her sorceries.**

**5 “Behold, I am against you,” says** [qal; passive participle] **the LORD** [*yehovah*] **of hosts** [appointed time, company, host, service, soldiers, waiting upon, war(-fare)]; **“I will lift** [**piel**; perfect; advertise, appear, bewray, bring, (carry, lead, go) captive (into captivity), depart, disclose, discover, exile, be gone, open, publish, remove, reveal, shew, tell, uncover] **your skirts** [hem, skirt, train] **over your face,** **I will show** [hiphil; perfect; advise self, appear, approve, behold, consider, discern, (make to) enjoy, have experience, gaze, take heed, lo, look (on, one another, one on another, one upon another, out, up, upon), mark, meet, perceive, present, provide, regard, (have) respect, (fore-, cause to, let) see(-r, -m, one another), shew (self), (e-) spy, stare, view, visions] **the nations your nakedness** [nakedness, proportion], **And the kingdoms your shame** [confusion, dishonor, ignominy, reproach, shame].

**6 I will cast** [hiphil; perfect; adventure, cast (away, down, forth, off, out), hurl, pluck, throw] **abominable filth** [abominable filth (idol, -ation), detestable (thing)] **upon you,** **Make you vile** [**piel**; perfect; disgrace, dishonor, lightly esteem, fade (away, -ing), fall (down, -ling, off), do foolishly, come to naught, make vile, wither], **And make** [qal; perfect] **you a spectacle** [gazingstock, look to, (that) see(-th)].

**7 It shall come to pass that all who look** [qal; active participle; advise self, appear, approve, behold, consider, discern, (make to) enjoy, have experience, gaze, take heed, lo, look (on, one another, one on another, one upon another, out, up, upon), mark, meet, perceive, present, provide, regard, (have) respect, (fore-, cause to, let) see(-r, -m, one another), shew (self), (e-) spy, stare, view, visions] **upon you** **Will flee** [qal; imperfect; chase (away), depart, flee (away), (re-) move, thrust away, wander (abroad, -er, -ing)] **from you, and say** [qal; perfect], **‘Nineveh** [the capital of Assyria] **is laid waste** [**pual**; perfect; dead, destroy(-er), oppress, robber, spoil(-er), (lay) waste]! **Who will bemoan** [qal; imperfect; bemoan, flee, get, mourn, make to move, take pity, remove, shake, skip for joy, be sorry, vagabond, way, wandering] **her?’** **Where shall I seek** [**piel**; imperfect; ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure, (make) request, require, seek (for)] **comforters** [**piel**; participle; comfort (self), ease (one's self), repent(-er,-ing, self)] **for you?’”**