

The Twelve



A STUDY ON THE MINOR PROPHETS

CORE TRAINING - WED NIGHTS

FALL 2026

Recessional

Rudyard Kipling

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

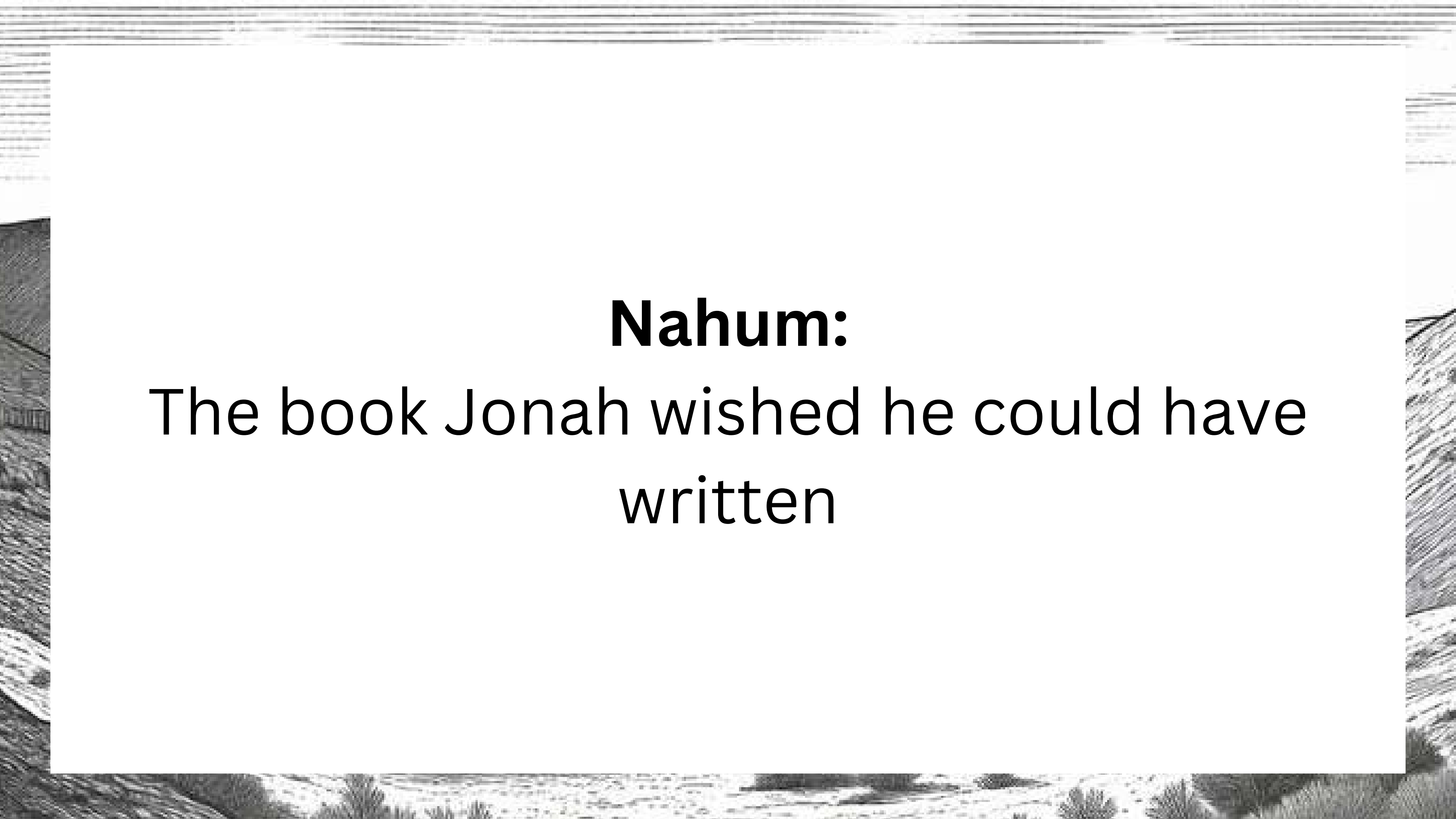
The tumult and the shouting dies;
The Captains and the Kings depart:
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

Far-called our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

The prophet Nahum would have applauded this poem, especially Kipling's reference to Nineveh, because he wrote the OT book that graphically describes Nineveh's destruction.

Placing the Prophets

Pre-exilic prophets			Exilic prophets	Post-exilic prophets	
9 th century BC	8 th century BC	7 th century BC	6 th century BC		5 th century BC
Written to Gentile nations	Obadiah	Jonah			
Written to Israel	Hosea				
	Amos				
Written to Judah		Habakkuk			
	Micah	Zephaniah	Daniel	Haggai	
	Joel	Isaiah	Ezekiel	Zechariah	Malachi

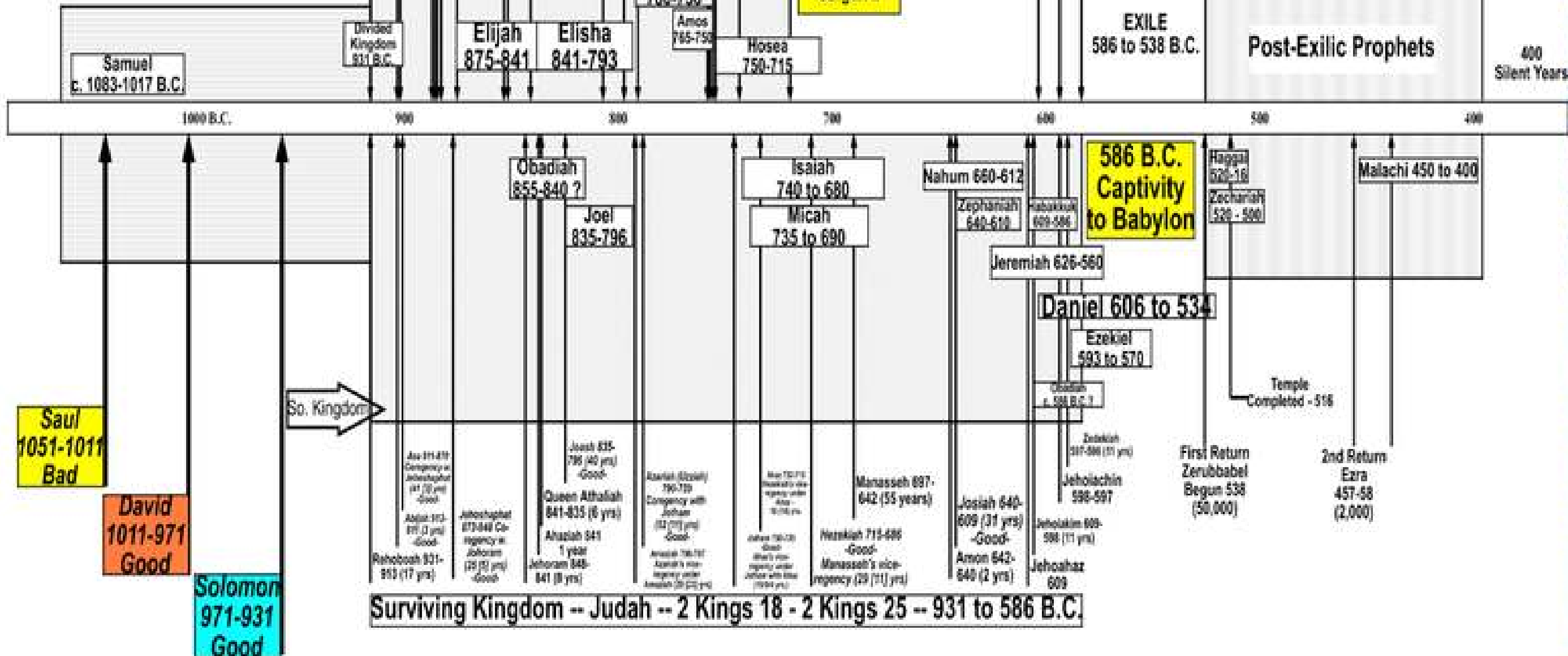
A black and white photograph of a desert landscape with a white rectangular overlay containing text. The landscape features a sandy foreground with sparse, low-lying desert vegetation and a rocky, hilly background under a clear sky. The white overlay is centered and contains the text "Nahum:" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, followed by "The book Jonah wished he could have" and "written" in a smaller, regular black sans-serif font on two separate lines.

Nahum:

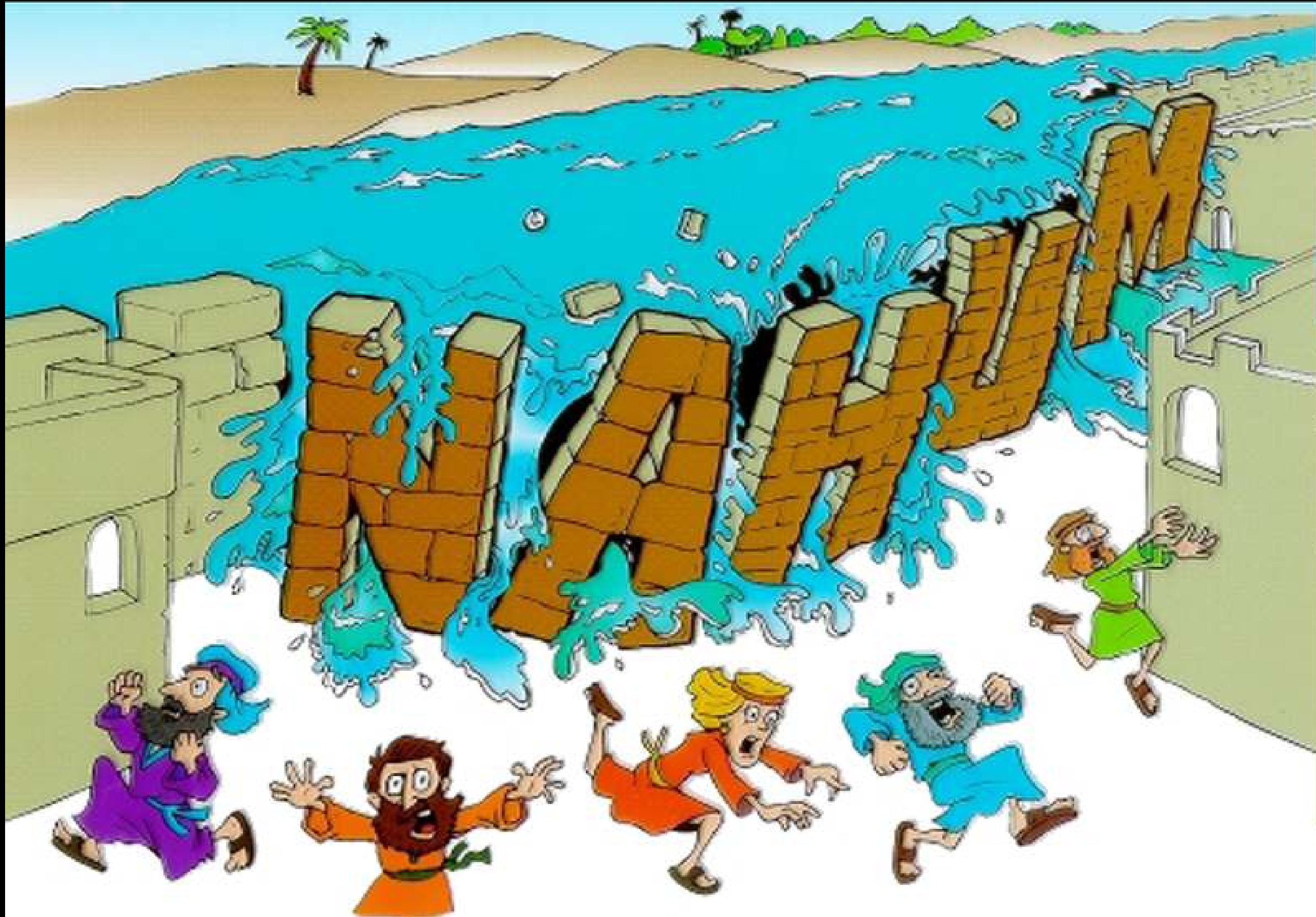
The book Jonah wished he could have
written

Kings and Prophets Chronology

United Kingdom
1 Sam. 10 -
1 Kings 11
1043 to 931 B.C.



Nahum's Flood Judgment



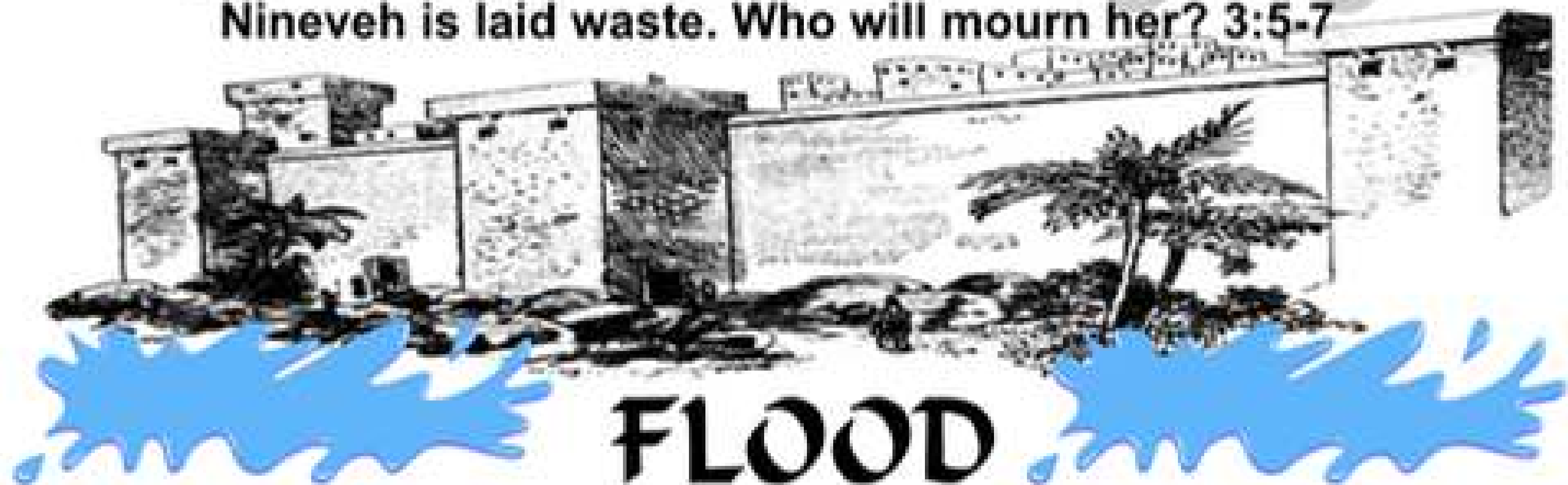
NAHUM: Comfort; Compassion; Purpose: Pronounce Judgment on Assyria & Comfort Judah

Nineveh's Doom
Declared (Chap. 1)

Nineveh's Doom
Described (Chap. 2)

Nineveh's Doom
Deserved (Chap. 3)

Nineveh is laid waste. Who will mourn her? 3:5-7



Contrast: Jonah & Nahum

Jonah: The Mercy of God	Nahum: The Judgment of God
800 B.C.	650 B.C.
Emphasis on the prophet - only one prophecy in the whole book	Emphasis on the prophecy - the only thing we know about the prophet is that he was from Elkosh.
Disobedient prophet	Obedient prophet
Obedient Nation	Disobedient Nation - in only 150 years the nation became so bad that it had to be destroyed. Does that remind you of America in any way? We've degenerated a lot in the last 50 years.
Deliverance from Water	Destruction by water ?
Repentance of Nineveh	Rebellion of Nineveh

Assyrian relief showing the mutilation of prisoners by cutting off their hands and feet and impaling the heads of those killed are hung on the walls of the city



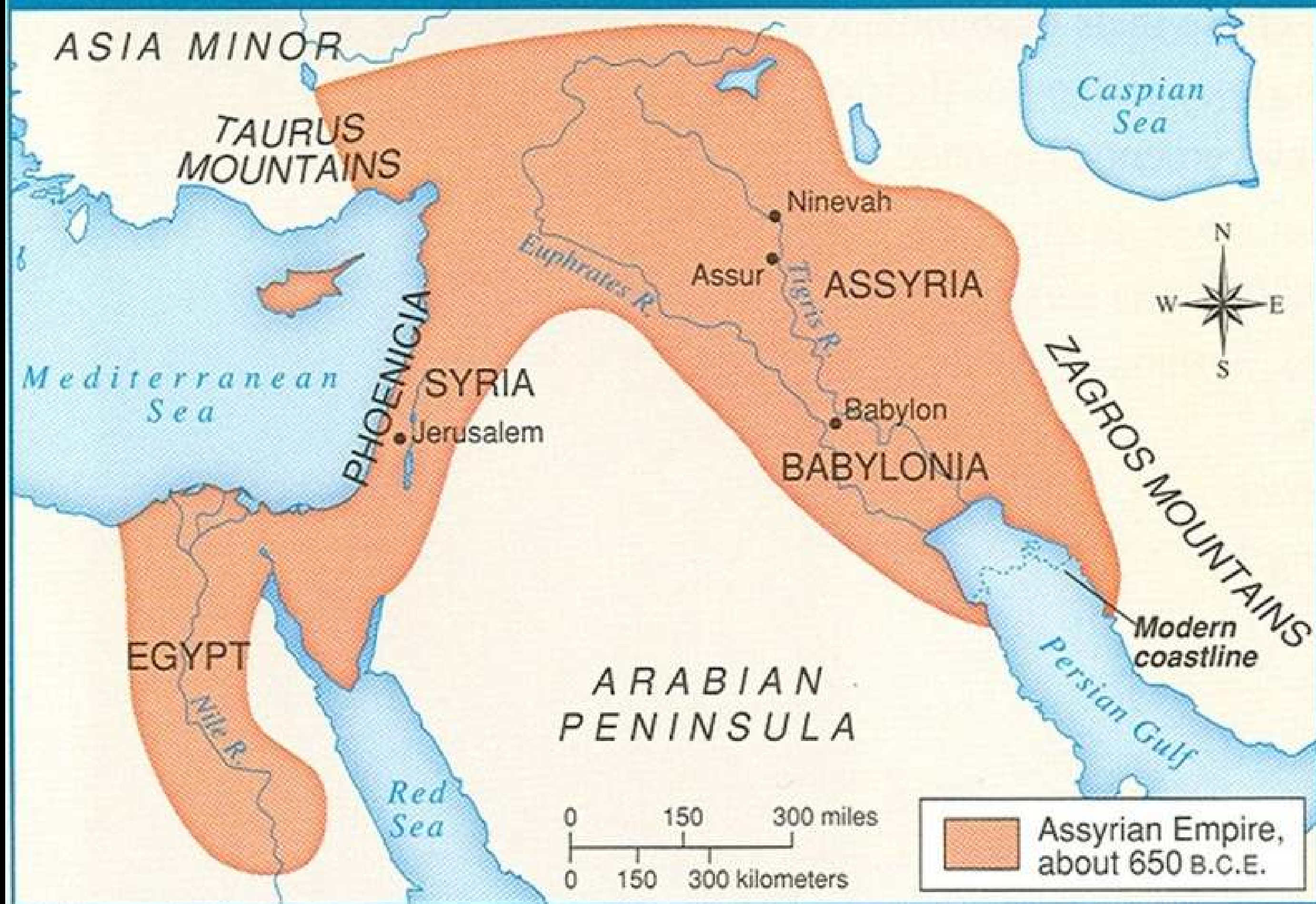
Historical Background

Author: Nahum (“comfort / consolation”)

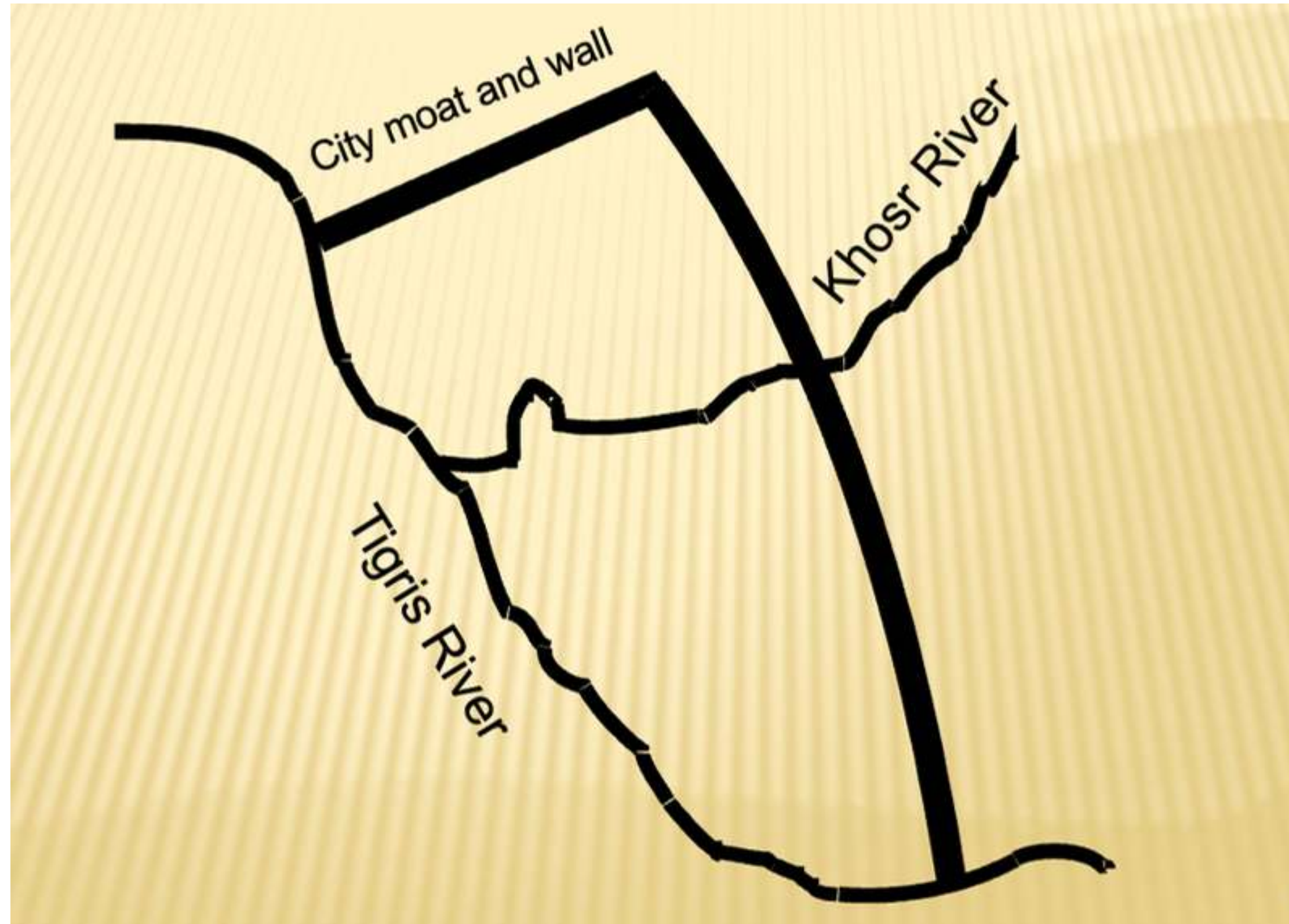
Nothing is known of the human author of this brief prophecy except that he is Nahum the Elkoshite. The word Nahum means “comfort” or “consolation.” The location of Elkosh is uncertain. Some have suggested that it was Capernaum (Hebrew: Kaphar Nahum, Nahum's town). However, because of Nahum's concern for Judah (1:12, 15) it is probably best to place its location somewhere in Judah.

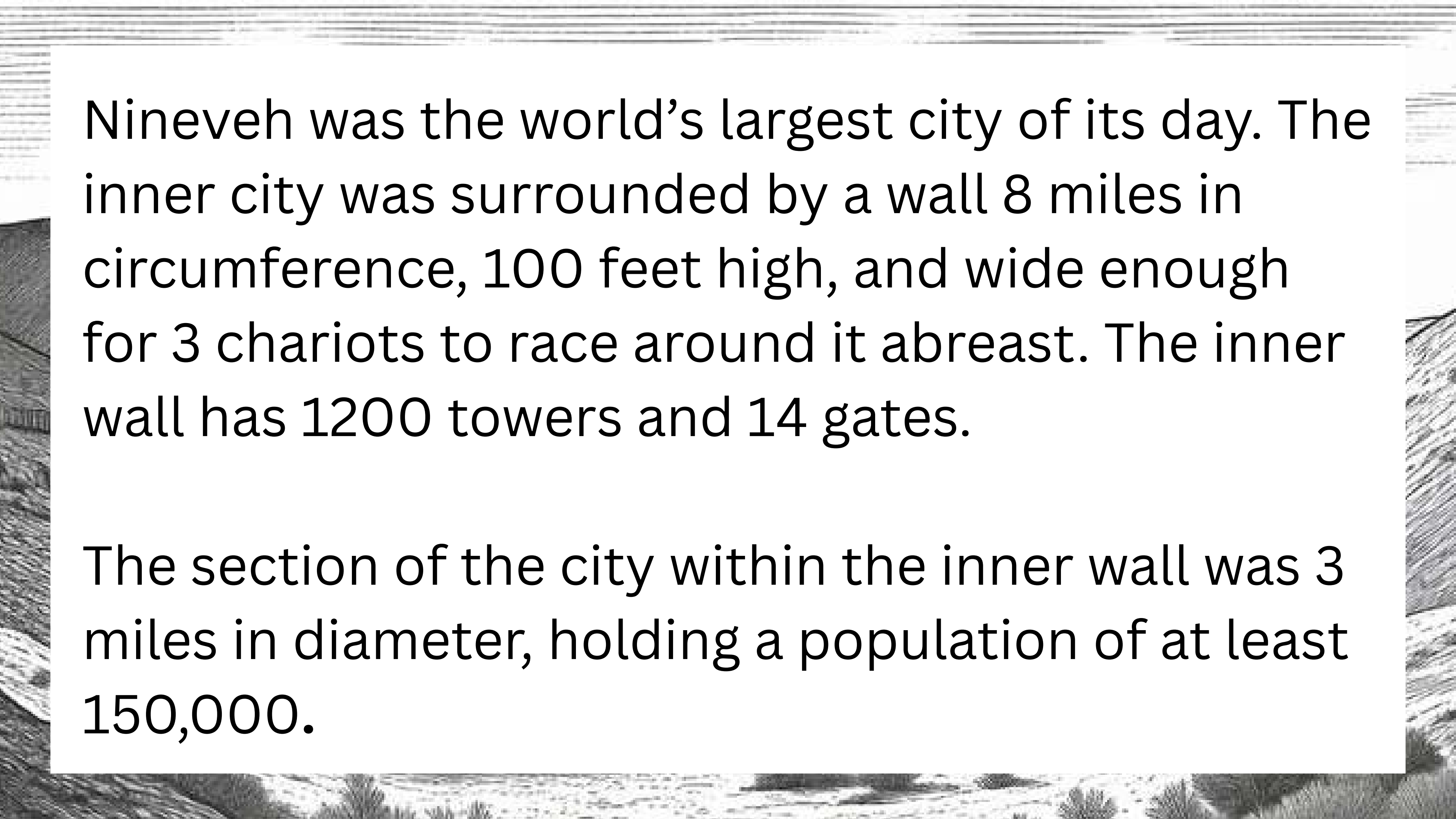
- Date: Sometime between 663 (after the fall of Thebes in 663 B.C. [3:8-10] and 612 B.C.
- Written to: The Southern Kingdom of Judah regarding Nineveh and Assyria when Nineveh is at the height of its power.
- Place: From Judah against Nineveh (“Nineveh” appears 20 times in the Bible). Nineveh was founded by Nimrod (Gen 10:11)

The Assyrian Empire, About 650 B.C.E.



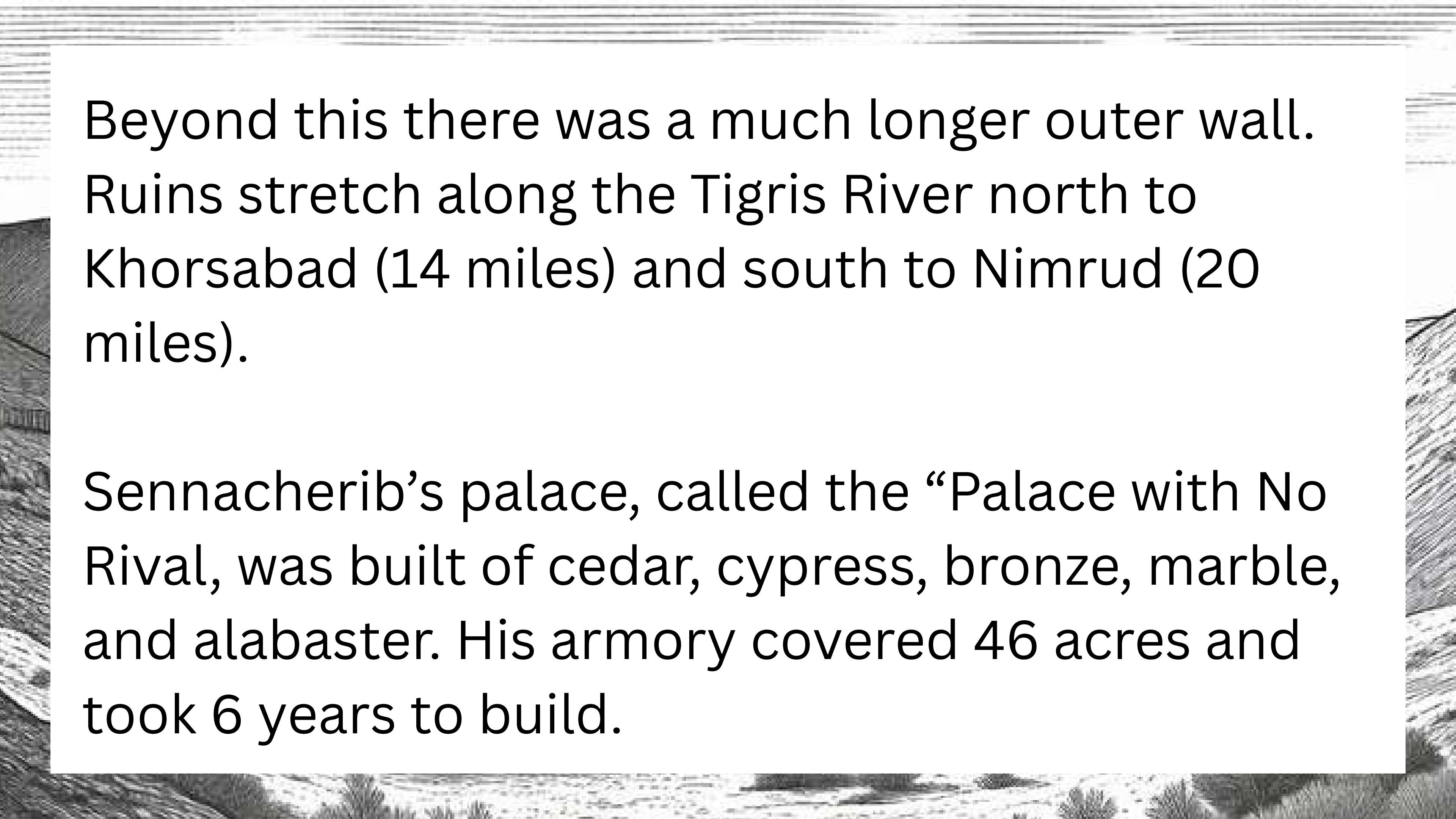
Ninevah



A black and white photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a sandy path or dune area with some sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky.

Nineveh was the world's largest city of its day. The inner city was surrounded by a wall 8 miles in circumference, 100 feet high, and wide enough for 3 chariots to race around it abreast. The inner wall has 1200 towers and 14 gates.

The section of the city within the inner wall was 3 miles in diameter, holding a population of at least 150,000.

The background of the slide features a black and white photograph of ancient ruins. On the left, there are stone walls and structures, possibly part of a city wall or palace. On the right, there are more ruins, including what looks like a large, curved wall or a bridge. The foreground shows a desert landscape with sparse vegetation and a path leading towards the ruins.

Beyond this there was a much longer outer wall. Ruins stretch along the Tigris River north to Khorsabad (14 miles) and south to Nimrud (20 miles).

Sennacherib's palace, called the "Palace with No Rival, was built of cedar, cypress, bronze, marble, and alabaster. His armory covered 46 acres and took 6 years to build.

Aim

To comfort Judah by prophesying judgment upon the wicked Assyrian capital of Nineveh. That destruction was coming because of God's justice and because of Nineveh's sin.

Outline

- The Revelation
- The Ruin
- The Reasons

Outline

- Nineveh's Doom **Declared** - The Judge
- Nineveh's Doom **Described** - The Judgment
- Nineveh's Doom **Deserved** - The Justification

Nahum in a Nutshell

- **Who** will destroy Nineveh
- **How** will He destroy Nineveh
- **Why** will He destroy Nineveh

Message

While God is patient and delays judgment, He is righteous, just and powerful and those who reject His righteous demands must face His wrath.

NAHUM: NINEVEH'S DOOM

DECLARED

The Judge

Because of God's attributes
God's wrath
God's power
God's goodness
Conclusion

Because of Nineveh's sin

1:1-15

DESCRIBED

The Judgment

The coming of Nineveh's enemies
The attack on Nineveh's defenses
The plundering of the city
The destruction of Nineveh's "Lair"

2:1-13

DESERVED

The Justification

Because of her brutal conquests
The example of Thebes
The inevitable destruction
The response of the nations

3:1-19

Nuggets from Nahum

- Nahum is the 9th shortest books in the Bible, containing 1285 words in 47 verses.
- Nahum is considered the most impassioned of all the prophets
- Every chapter in Nahum ends with a quotation from Yahweh.
- Nahum ends with a question. The only other book that ends with a question is Jonah.
- Nineveh is called “you” 22x (personalized)

1. God's Judgment on Nineveh Declared (Ch 1)

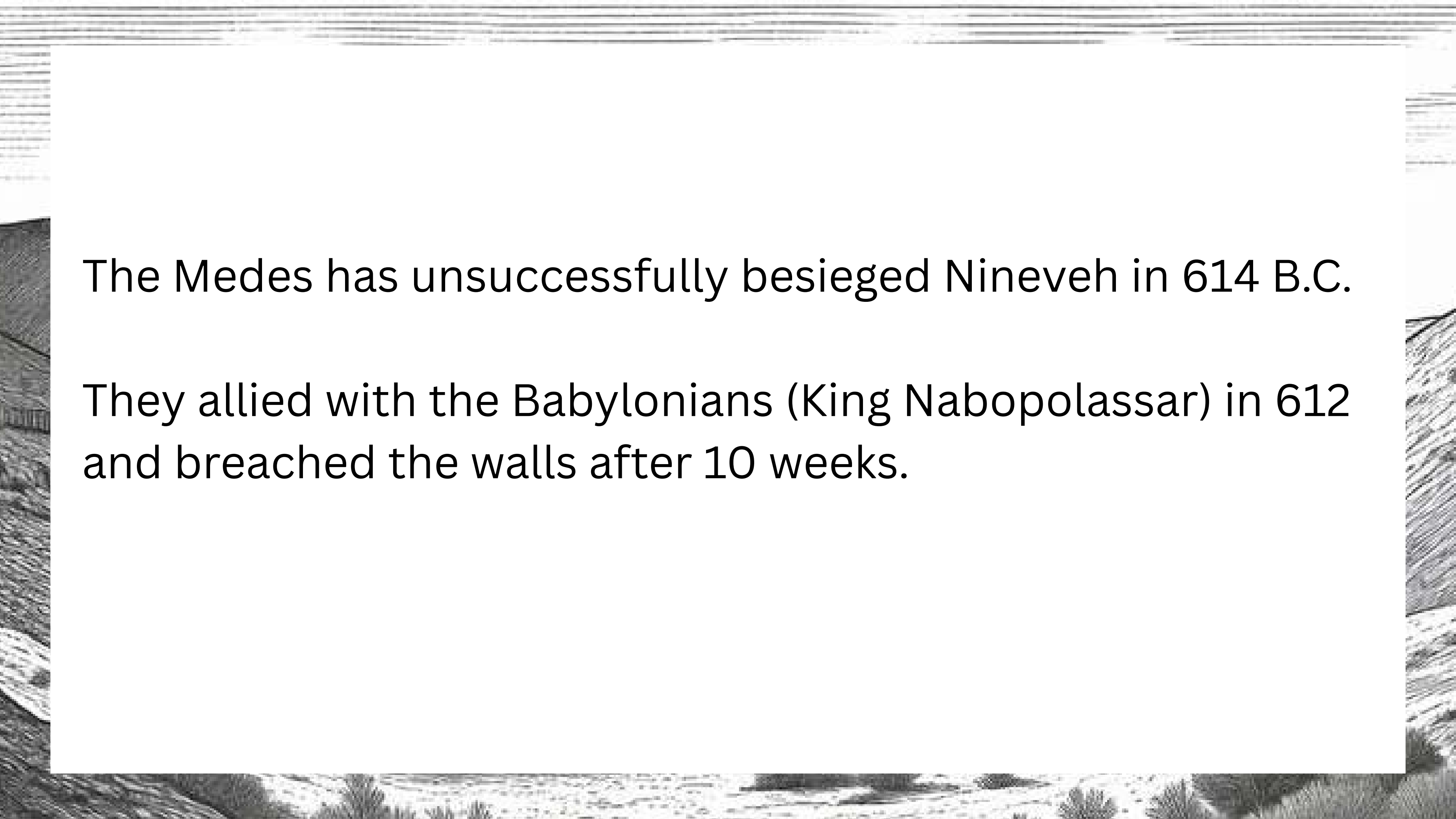
- Because of God's Character
 - Jealousy (2)
 - Wrath (6, 8)
 - Slow to Anger (3a)
 - Powerful (3b-5)
 - Goodness (7)
- Because of Nineveh's Corruption (9-14) (the style changes to "you")
- Because of Judah's Comfort (15)

2. God's Judgment on Nineveh Described (Ch 2)

The Destruction of the Destroyers; The End of Assyria's reign of terror.

1. The Announcement (1-2)
2. The Attack (3-6)
3. The Analogy (11-13) (devouring lion; cloud of locusts)

Nineveh had been a consuming force for centuries, stripping the land, consuming city after city. Nineveh will now be consumed.

The background of the slide is a black and white photograph of a desert landscape. It shows a wide, sandy path or dune area with sparse, low-lying desert vegetation. In the distance, there are more dunes and some faint outlines of structures or ruins. A large, white rectangular text box is centered over the image, containing two lines of text.

The Medes has unsuccessfully besieged Nineveh in 614 B.C.

They allied with the Babylonians (King Nabopolassar) in 612 and breached the walls after 10 weeks.

Nineveh was so utterly destroyed that 300 years later when Alexander the Great fought the battle of Arbela nearby in 331 B.C., he didn't know there had been a city there. Lucian (2nd cent. AD) declared, "Nineveh has perished, and there is no trace left where it once was." It wasn't until excavations in the 1840's that the site was definitely identified as Nineveh.

The fact that Nineveh was never rebuilt confirms Nahum's prediction in 1 :9 "Distress will not rise up twice."

3. God's Judgment on Nineveh Deserved (Ch 3)

- Because of Violence (1-3)
- Because of False Religion (4-7)

Another metaphor-prostitute

The one who degraded others will now be repaid for her degradation.

Irony: Thebes was conquered by the Assyrians. It was the best defended city conquered until Nineveh.

- Because of Pride (8-15)
- Because of Materialism (16-19)

8 Lessons from Nahum

- God is powerful and majestic.
- God detests sin.
- God's Judgment on Sin and Evil Should Cause Us to Have an Awesome Respect for God's Justice.
- God's Judgment on Sin and Evil Should Cause Us to Praise Him for Delivering Us from the Wrath to Come.

8 Lessons from Nahum

- Depravity of humanity
- God doesn't answer all of our questions—Why does God speak so violently? If Nineveh is so evil, why did God wait so long to punish them? Why did God afflict Israel with Assyria in the first place? Why does God allow and use violence?

8 Lessons from Nahum

- We see the fall of others but somehow imagine that our western world and cities will be different (Nineveh failed to learn from Thebes)
- God keeps His word. The ruins of Nineveh stand as another mute testimony to the power of the awesome God of prophecy.

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #1 The Assyrian fortresses surrounding the city would be easily captured (3:12).
 - Fulfilled: According to The Babylonian Chronicle the fortified town in Nineveh's environs began to fall in 614 B.C.
- Prophecy #2 The besieged Ninevites would prepare bricks and mortar for emergency defense walls (3:14).
 - Fulfilled: The moat at the ruins of Nineveh is still filled with fragments of mud bricks from the walls that were piled up when the walls were breached.

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #3 The city gates would be destroyed (3:13).
 - Fulfilled: The brunt of the attack came against the Hatamti gate at the northwest corner of the city.
- Prophecy #4 In the final hours of the attack the Ninevites would be drunk (1:10; 3:11)
 - Fulfilled: Diodorus Siculus, in his Bibliotheca Historica(ca. 20 B.C.), said that the Assyrian soldiers were drunk and carousing when an unexpected attack came at night.

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #5 Nineveh would be destroyed by a flood (1:8; 2:6, 8)
 - Fulfilled: Ancient historians (Diodorus and Xenophon) report that heavy rains in 612 B.C. caused a nearby river to overflow its banks breaking part of the walls and flooding the city.
- Prophecy #6 Nineveh would be destroyed by fire (1:10; 2:13; 3:15).
 - Fulfilled: Archaeological excavations at Nineveh have revealed charred wood, charcoal and a layer of ash about two inches thick.

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #7 The people of Nineveh would be massacred (3:3)
 - Fulfilled: According to Diodorus, the slaughter outside the city was so great that the stream of water mingled with blood changed color for quite a distance.
- Prophecy #8 The city would be plundered (2:9-10)
 - Fulfilled: According to The Babylonian Chronicle, “Great quantities of spoil from the city, beyond counting, they carried off. The city [they turned] into a mound and ruin heap.”

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #9 The people of Nineveh would try to escape (2:8)
 - Fulfilled: The king of the city sent his three sons and two daughters away from the city with great treasure to a friendly, neighboring subject.
- Prophecy #10 The Ninevite soldiers would become cowards and flee (3:17).
 - Fulfilled: The Babylonian Chronicle says that the Assyrian army deserted the king.

Nahum Bats 12 for 12

- Prophecy #11 The idols of Nineveh would be destroyed (1:14).
 - Fulfilled: The statues of the goddess Ishtar were found headless in the debris of Nineveh's ruins.
- Prophecy #12 Nineveh's destruction would be final (1:9, 14). It would never be rebuilt.
 - Fulfilled: Many ancient cities were rebuilt and re-occupied after being destroyed, some several times (Samaria, Jerusalem), but not Nineveh.

God is in Control

- Assyria seems invincible. The lion had overwhelmed the entire ancient Near East from Egypt to Persia. Yet, within a few years the invincible foe would be vanquished by God.
- Assyria's fall is a preview of the final judgment.

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