

# NAHUM

**The Man:** A powerful poet, Nahum prophesied c. 612 B.C., just before the destruction of the Assyrian capital of Nineveh.

**The Times:** The savage cruelty of the Assyrians had made them hated by all those they conquered.

**The Message:** Nineveh's doom was a judgment on its wickedness. All will rejoice at the destruction of this foe.

## Prophetic Themes in Nahum

**Authority:** the Lord speaks: [1:12; 2:14]

**Specific Sins:** the evil done by the Assyrians: [3:1-4]

**Judgment:** God's punishment on the Assyrians: [1:2-14; 2:14]

Because Nahum is proclaiming the Lord's upcoming punishment of the Assyrians, there was no covenant relationship to invoke, nor any call to repentance, nor promise of hope for a remnant of these people. Their complete and utter destruction is God's judgment against them for the evils they inflicted on the Israelites and on others they conquered.

## Reading at Mass

No passage from the Book of Nahum is used as a Sunday reading.

1:15; 2:1,3; 3:1-3,6-7 – The Lord will destroy the bloody city, bringing peace to Judah and Israel. [Year II, Friday of the 18<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time]