

Points of interest: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah  
29 Oct 2001

These three books were all written after Israel fell to Assyria, but before Judah fell to Babylon. They are directed towards three nations: Assyria, Babylon, and Judah, respectively.

## Nahum

It's a little difficult to tell who is being addressed in the opening of Nahum; the NIV inserts "Nineveh" at 1.8, 11, 14, and 2.1, and "Judah" at 1.12 and marks the insertions with little brackets to tell you that it's guessing.

Christensen ("Nahum," *Harper's Bible Dictionary*) suggests that Nahum and Habakkuk can be outlined as a single literary unit:

1. Hymn describing God (Nah 1)
2. Taunt song against Nineveh (Nah 2—3)
3. The problem of evil (Hab 1)
4. Taunt song against the "wicked one" (Hab 2)
5. Hymn describing God (Hab 3)

## Habakkuk

**1.5** In Acts 13.41 Paul compares Judah's unbelief in the time of the invasion of Babylon is compared with Jewish unbelief in the time of Christ.

**2.3–4** This verse gets quoted three times in the New Testament, and is an interesting example of variation between different versions:

From Hebrew	From Greek	Rom 1.17/Gal 3.11	Heb 10.37–38
For it will certainly come, it will not delay.	He who is coming will come, and will not delay.		He who is coming will come, and will not delay.
Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him;	If he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him;		But My righteous one will live by faith;
But the righteous one will live by his faith.	But the righteous one will live by My faith.	But the righteous one will live by faith.	And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

## Zephaniah

**1.1** Hezekiah: possibly King Hezekiah, but we don't know for sure.

**3.13** This description of God's people is applied to the 144,000 in Rev 14.5.