

## Timeline / Overview

Nahum was a prophet who preached against the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. His name literally means “comfort,” and he was from the town of Elkosh (**1:1**). This is the only text to mention Elkosh, and it is possible this was the same as Capernaum, which means “city of Comfort.”

When Jonah preached repentance on the streets of Nineveh the people responded and were spared. A century later, sometime between 663 and 612 BC, Nahum preached in a time when Nineveh would not repent (**1:1**). Nineveh, which had destroyed Israel’s northern kingdom in 722 BC (**2 Kings 17**), fell to Babylon in 612 BC—just a few years after Nahum’s warning. The Assyrians rose as one of the world’s first great empires and were notorious for the brutality of their treatment of other nations. Nahum declared, however, that God is sovereign: he punishes whom he will, and they are powerless to stop him. Much of Nahum’s prophecy was directed to the people of Judah, who could rejoice at the good news (**1:15**) of Nineveh’s impending fall.

## God’s Wrath Against Nineveh - Chapter 1

The book opens with a poem that describes a powerful appearance of God’s glory (**1:1-8**). It is similar to how Micah begins (**Micah 1**) and how Habakkuk concludes (**Habakkuk 3**). This is God, coming to confront Nineveh and bring His justice on their evil. The poem opens by quoting from the famous line of God’s self-description after the golden calf incident in **Exodus 34:6-7** (Compare to **Num 14:18; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Neh 9:17; Pss 86:15; 103:8; 145:8**):

**Nahum 1:3a (ESV)** - *The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.*

The description of Nineveh’s destruction in verse 8 (**see also 2:6-8**) is particularly noteworthy considering that archaeological excavations have shown that Nineveh was partially destroyed by floodwaters from the Tigris River:

**Nahum 1:8 (ESV)** - *But with an overflowing flood he will make a complete end of the adversaries, and will pursue his enemies into darkness.*

The rest of the poem goes back and forth (**1:9-15**) contrasting the fate of the Nineveh with the fate of God’s faithful remnant. When God brings down all of the arrogant empires, He will provide refuge for those who humble themselves before Him. Nahum’s description of the downfall of Nineveh is similar to the language used about the fall of Babylon (**1:14; Isaiah 14**), which happened much later in history. Not only that, Nahum also describes their downfall as “good news” (**1:15**) for the remnant of God’s people. This is a direct allusion to Isaiah’s good news about the downfall of Babylon (**Isaiah 52:7**).

The fall of Nineveh is being presented as an example...an image of how God is at work in history in every age. He won’t allow the arrogant or violent empires of our world to endure forever. So,

the message of Nahum is very similar to that of Daniel. Assyria stands in a long line of violent empires throughout history. Nineveh's fate is a memorial to God's commitment to bring down the violent and arrogant in every age.

Assyria → Babylon → Persia → Greece → Rome → etc.

## The Fall of Nineveh – Chapter 2

Chapter 2 describes the battle of Nineveh and the overthrow of the city in progressive stages. First we see the front line of Babylonian soldiers (2:1-3a). Then we read about the charge of the chariots (2:3b-4). Then the chaos of the city walls as the city is breached (2:5). Then the slaughter of Nineveh's people (2:7-8). Then the plundering of the city (2:9). The chapter ends with taunt against Nineveh using the imagery of lions (2:10-13). The once mighty predator is now the prey.

## A mocking lament for Nineveh – Chapter 3

Chapter 3 goes on to describe the results of the city's downfall for the empire as a whole. Nahum begins by announcing woe upon the city whose kings built it with the blood of the innocent (3:1). It's an image of how injustice was built into the very system that made Assyria so successful. Their violence has sown the seeds of their own destruction, and so Assyria will fall before Babylon. The book concludes with a taunt against the fallen king of Assyria (3:18-19). He's stricken with a fatal wound. From among all the nations, that he once oppressed, no one comes to help him.

**Nahum 3:19 (ESV)** - *There is no easing your hurt; your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?*

This is a gloomy book, but it's important to see how Nahum's message addresses the tragic and perpetual cycles of human violence and oppression in every age. Human history is filled with tribes and nations elevating themselves and using violence to take what they want, resulting in the death of the innocent. The book of Nahum uses Assyria as an example to tell us that God is grieved. He cares about the death of the innocent. His goodness and His justice compel Him to orchestrate the downfall of oppressive nations. God's judgment on evil is good news. Unless, of course, you happen to be Assyria. Which brings us all the way back to the poem in chapter 1.

**Nahum 1:7 (ESV)** - *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*

The little book of Nahum invites every reader to humble themselves before God's justice and to trust that, in His time, He will bring down the oppressors of every time and place.

## Teacher's Notes

Handout notes are adapted from The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y30DanA5EhU>

## Text

### Nahum 1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;  
the LORD is avenging and wrathful;

the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries  
and keeps wrath for his enemies.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is slow to anger and great in power,  
and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.

His way is in whirlwind and storm,  
and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

<sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;  
he dries up all the rivers;

Bashan and Carmel wither;  
the bloom of Lebanon withers.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him;  
the hills melt;  
the earth heaves before him,  
the world and all who dwell in it.

<sup>6</sup> Who can stand before his indignation?  
Who can endure the heat of his anger?  
His wrath is poured out like fire,  
and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is good,  
a stronghold in the day of trouble;  
he knows those who take refuge in him.

<sup>8</sup> But with an overflowing flood  
he will make a complete end of the adversaries,  
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

<sup>9</sup> What do you plot against the LORD?  
He will make a complete end;  
trouble will not rise up a second time.

<sup>10</sup> For they are like entangled thorns,  
like drunkards as they drink;  
they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

<sup>11</sup> From you came one  
who plotted evil against the LORD,  
a worthless counselor.

<sup>12</sup> Thus says the LORD,  
“Though they are at full strength and many,  
they will be cut down and pass away.  
Though I have afflicted you,  
I will afflict you no more.

<sup>13</sup> And now I will break his yoke from off you  
and will burst your bonds apart.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD has given commandment about you:  
“No more shall your name be perpetuated;  
from the house of your gods I will cut off  
the carved image and the metal image.  
I will make your grave, for you are vile.”

<sup>15</sup> Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him  
who brings good news,  
who publishes peace!  
Keep your feasts, O Judah;  
fulfill your vows,  
for never again shall the worthless pass through you;  
he is utterly cut off.

### **Nahum 2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The scatterer has come up against you.  
Man the ramparts;  
watch the road;  
dress for battle;  
collect all your strength.

<sup>2</sup> For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob  
as the majesty of Israel,  
for plunderers have plundered them  
and ruined their branches.

<sup>3</sup> The shield of his mighty men is red;  
his soldiers are clothed in scarlet.  
The chariots come with flashing metal  
on the day he musters them;  
the cypress spears are brandished.

<sup>4</sup> The chariots race madly through the streets;  
they rush to and fro through the squares;

they gleam like torches;  
    they dart like lightning.  
<sup>5</sup> He remembers his officers;  
    they stumble as they go,  
they hasten to the wall;  
    the siege tower is set up.  
<sup>6</sup> The river gates are opened;  
    the palace melts away;  
<sup>7</sup> its mistress is stripped; she is carried off,  
    her slave girls lamenting,  
moaning like doves  
    and beating their breasts.  
<sup>8</sup> Nineveh is like a pool  
    whose waters run away.  
“Halt! Halt!” they cry,  
    but none turns back.  
<sup>9</sup> Plunder the silver,  
    plunder the gold!  
There is no end of the treasure  
    or of the wealth of all precious things.

<sup>10</sup> Desolate! Desolation and ruin!  
    Hearts melt and knees tremble;  
anguish is in all loins;  
    all faces grow pale!  
<sup>11</sup> Where is the lions’ den,  
    the feeding place of the young lions,  
where the lion and lioness went,  
    where his cubs were, with none to disturb?  
<sup>12</sup> The lion tore enough for his cubs  
    and strangled prey for his lionesses;  
he filled his caves with prey  
    and his dens with torn flesh.

<sup>13</sup> Behold, I am against you, declares the LORD of hosts, and I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions. I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall no longer be heard.

### **Nahum 3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Woe to the bloody city,  
    all full of lies and plunder—  
    no end to the prey!  
<sup>2</sup> The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel,  
    galloping horse and bounding chariot!

- <sup>3</sup> Horsemen charging,  
    flashing sword and glittering spear,  
hosts of slain,  
    heaps of corpses,  
dead bodies without end—  
    they stumble over the bodies!
- <sup>4</sup> And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute,  
    graceful and of deadly charms,  
who betrays nations with her whorings,  
    and peoples with her charms.
- <sup>5</sup> Behold, I am against you,  
    declares the LORD of hosts,  
    and will lift up your skirts over your face;  
and I will make nations look at your nakedness  
    and kingdoms at your shame.
- <sup>6</sup> I will throw filth at you  
    and treat you with contempt  
    and make you a spectacle.
- <sup>7</sup> And all who look at you will shrink from you and say,  
“Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?”  
    Where shall I seek comforters for you?
- <sup>8</sup> Are you better than Thebes  
    that sat by the Nile,  
with water around her,  
    her rampart a sea,  
    and water her wall?
- <sup>9</sup> Cush was her strength;  
    Egypt too, and that without limit;  
    Put and the Libyans were her helpers.
- <sup>10</sup> Yet she became an exile;  
    she went into captivity;  
her infants were dashed in pieces  
    at the head of every street;  
for her honored men lots were cast,  
    and all her great men were bound in chains.
- <sup>11</sup> You also will be drunken;  
    you will go into hiding;  
you will seek a refuge from the enemy.
- <sup>12</sup> All your fortresses are like fig trees  
    with first-ripe figs—  
if shaken they fall

- into the mouth of the eater.
- <sup>13</sup> Behold, your troops  
are women in your midst.  
The gates of your land  
are wide open to your enemies;  
fire has devoured your bars.
- <sup>14</sup> Draw water for the siege;  
strengthen your forts;  
go into the clay;  
tread the mortar;  
take hold of the brick mold!
- <sup>15</sup> There will the fire devour you;  
the sword will cut you off.  
It will devour you like the locust.  
Multiply yourselves like the locust;  
multiply like the grasshopper!
- <sup>16</sup> You increased your merchants  
more than the stars of the heavens.  
The locust spreads its wings and flies away.
- <sup>17</sup> Your princes are like grasshoppers,  
your scribes like clouds of locusts  
settling on the fences  
in a day of cold—  
when the sun rises, they fly away;  
no one knows where they are.
- <sup>18</sup> Your shepherds are asleep,  
O king of Assyria;  
your nobles slumber.  
Your people are scattered on the mountains  
with none to gather them.
- <sup>19</sup> There is no easing your hurt;  
your wound is grievous.  
All who hear the news about you  
clap their hands over you.  
For upon whom has not come  
your unceasing evil?

## Timeline / Overview

### 2 Kings 17 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. <sup>2</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. <sup>3</sup> Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute. <sup>4</sup> But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. <sup>5</sup> Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.

<sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

<sup>7</sup> And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods <sup>8</sup> and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced. <sup>9</sup> And the people of Israel did secretly against the LORD their God things that were not right. They built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city. <sup>10</sup> They set up for themselves pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree, <sup>11</sup> and there they made offerings on all the high places, as the nations did whom the LORD carried away before them. And they did wicked things, provoking the LORD to anger, <sup>12</sup> and they served idols, of which the LORD had said to them, “You shall not do this.” <sup>13</sup> Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

<sup>14</sup> But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God. <sup>15</sup> They despised his statutes and his covenant that he made with their fathers and the warnings that he gave them. They went after false idols and became false, and they followed the nations that were around them, concerning whom the LORD had commanded them that they should not do like them. <sup>16</sup> And they abandoned all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made for themselves metal images of two calves; and they made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. <sup>17</sup> And they burned their sons and their daughters as offerings and used divination and omens and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. <sup>18</sup> Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

<sup>19</sup> Judah also did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs that Israel had introduced. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until he had cast them out of his sight.

<sup>21</sup> When he had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. And Jeroboam drove Israel from following the LORD and made them commit great sin. <sup>22</sup>



The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them,<sup>23</sup> until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

<sup>24</sup> And the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the people of Israel. And they took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.<sup>25</sup> And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which killed some of them.<sup>26</sup> So the king of Assyria was told, “The nations that you have carried away and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the law of the god of the land. Therefore he has sent lions among them, and behold, they are killing them, because they do not know the law of the god of the land.”<sup>27</sup> Then the king of Assyria commanded, “Send there one of the priests whom you carried away from there, and let him go and dwell there and teach them the law of the god of the land.”<sup>28</sup> So one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and lived in Bethel and taught them how they should fear the LORD.

<sup>29</sup> But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the shrines of the high places that the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities in which they lived.<sup>30</sup> The men of Babylon made Succoth-benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima,<sup>31</sup> and the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in the fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.<sup>32</sup> They also feared the LORD and appointed from among themselves all sorts of people as priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places.<sup>33</sup> So they feared the LORD but also served their own gods, after the manner of the nations from among whom they had been carried away.

<sup>34</sup> To this day they do according to the former manner. They do not fear the LORD, and they do not follow the statutes or the rules or the law or the commandment that the LORD commanded the children of Jacob, whom he named Israel.<sup>35</sup> The LORD made a covenant with them and commanded them, “You shall not fear other gods or bow yourselves to them or serve them or sacrifice to them,<sup>36</sup> but you shall fear the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt with great power and with an outstretched arm. You shall bow yourselves to him, and to him you shall sacrifice.<sup>37</sup> And the statutes and the rules and the law and the commandment that he wrote for you, you shall always be careful to do. You shall not fear other gods,<sup>38</sup> and you shall not forget the covenant that I have made with you. You shall not fear other gods,<sup>39</sup> but you shall fear the LORD your God, and he will deliver you out of the hand of all your enemies.”<sup>40</sup> However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner.

<sup>41</sup> So these nations feared the LORD and also served their carved images. Their children did likewise, and their children’s children—as their fathers did, so they do to this day.

## God's Wrath Against Nineveh - Chapter 1

### Micah 1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth in the days of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, which he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you peoples, all of you;

pay attention, O earth, and all that is in it,  
and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you,  
the Lord from his holy temple.

<sup>3</sup> For behold, the LORD is coming out of his place,  
and will come down and tread upon the high places of the earth.

<sup>4</sup> And the mountains will melt under him,  
and the valleys will split open,  
like wax before the fire,  
like waters poured down a steep place.

<sup>5</sup> All this is for the transgression of Jacob  
and for the sins of the house of Israel.

What is the transgression of Jacob?

Is it not Samaria?

And what is the high place of Judah?

Is it not Jerusalem?

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I will make Samaria a heap in the open country,  
a place for planting vineyards,  
and I will pour down her stones into the valley  
and uncover her foundations.

<sup>7</sup> All her carved images shall be beaten to pieces,  
all her wages shall be burned with fire,  
and all her idols I will lay waste,  
for from the fee of a prostitute she gathered them,  
and to the fee of a prostitute they shall return.

<sup>8</sup> For this I will lament and wail;  
I will go stripped and naked;  
I will make lamentation like the jackals,  
and mourning like the ostriches.

<sup>9</sup> For her wound is incurable,  
and it has come to Judah;  
it has reached to the gate of my people,  
to Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> Tell it not in Gath;  
weep not at all;  
in Beth-le-aphrah  
roll yourselves in the dust.

- <sup>11</sup> Pass on your way,  
    inhabitants of Shaphir,  
    in nakedness and shame;  
the inhabitants of Zaanan  
    do not come out;  
the lamentation of Beth-ezel  
    shall take away from you its standing place.
- <sup>12</sup> For the inhabitants of Maroth  
    wait anxiously for good,  
because disaster has come down from the LORD  
    to the gate of Jerusalem.
- <sup>13</sup> Harness the steeds to the chariots,  
    inhabitants of Lachish;  
it was the beginning of sin  
    to the daughter of Zion,  
for in you were found  
    the transgressions of Israel.
- <sup>14</sup> Therefore you shall give parting gifts  
    to Moresheth-gath;  
the houses of Achzib shall be a deceitful thing  
    to the kings of Israel.
- <sup>15</sup> I will again bring a conqueror to you,  
    inhabitants of Mareshah;  
the glory of Israel  
    shall come to Adullam.
- <sup>16</sup> Make yourselves bald and cut off your hair,  
    for the children of your delight;  
make yourselves as bald as the eagle,  
    for they shall go from you into exile.

### **Habakkuk 3 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup> A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.
- <sup>2</sup> O LORD, I have heard the report of you,  
    and your work, O LORD, do I fear.  
In the midst of the years revive it;  
    in the midst of the years make it known;  
    in wrath remember mercy.
- <sup>3</sup> God came from Teman,  
    and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*  
His splendor covered the heavens,  
    and the earth was full of his praise.
- <sup>4</sup> His brightness was like the light;  
    rays flashed from his hand;

and there he veiled his power.  
<sup>5</sup> Before him went pestilence,  
and plague followed at his heels.  
<sup>6</sup> He stood and measured the earth;  
he looked and shook the nations;  
then the eternal mountains were scattered;  
the everlasting hills sank low.  
His were the everlasting ways.  
<sup>7</sup> I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;  
the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.  
<sup>8</sup> Was your wrath against the rivers, O LORD?  
Was your anger against the rivers,  
or your indignation against the sea,  
when you rode on your horses,  
on your chariot of salvation?  
<sup>9</sup> You stripped the sheath from your bow,  
calling for many arrows. *Selah*  
You split the earth with rivers.  
<sup>10</sup> The mountains saw you and writhed;  
the raging waters swept on;  
the deep gave forth its voice;  
it lifted its hands on high.  
<sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood still in their place  
at the light of your arrows as they sped,  
at the flash of your glittering spear.  
<sup>12</sup> You marched through the earth in fury;  
you threshed the nations in anger.  
<sup>13</sup> You went out for the salvation of your people,  
for the salvation of your anointed.  
You crushed the head of the house of the wicked,  
laying him bare from thigh to neck. *Selah*  
<sup>14</sup> You pierced with his own arrows the heads of his warriors,  
who came like a whirlwind to scatter me,  
rejoicing as if to devour the poor in secret.  
<sup>15</sup> You trampled the sea with your horses,  
the surging of mighty waters.  
  
<sup>16</sup> I hear, and my body trembles;  
my lips quiver at the sound;  
rottenness enters into my bones;  
my legs tremble beneath me.  
Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble  
to come upon people who invade us.  
<sup>17</sup> Though the fig tree should not blossom,

nor fruit be on the vines,  
the produce of the olive fail  
and the fields yield no food,  
the flock be cut off from the fold  
and there be no herd in the stalls,  
<sup>18</sup> yet I will rejoice in the LORD;  
I will take joy in the God of my salvation.  
<sup>19</sup> GOD, the Lord, is my strength;  
he makes my feet like the deer's;  
he makes me tread on my high places.

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.

**Exodus 34:6–7 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

**Numbers 14:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’

**Joel 2:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> and rend your hearts and not your garments.”  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.

**Jonah 4:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.

**Nehemiah 9:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.

**Psalm 86:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Psalm 103:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Psalm 145:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**Isaiah 14 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and sojourners will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob. <sup>2</sup> And the peoples will take them and bring them to their place, and the house of Israel will possess them in the LORD's land as male and female slaves. They will take captive those who were their captors, and rule over those who oppressed them.

<sup>3</sup> When the LORD has given you rest from your pain and turmoil and the hard service with which you were made to serve, <sup>4</sup> you will take up this taunt against the king of Babylon:

“How the oppressor has ceased,  
the insolent fury ceased!

<sup>5</sup> The LORD has broken the staff of the wicked,  
the scepter of rulers,

<sup>6</sup> that struck the peoples in wrath  
with unceasing blows,  
that ruled the nations in anger  
with unrelenting persecution.

<sup>7</sup> The whole earth is at rest and quiet;  
they break forth into singing.

<sup>8</sup> The cypresses rejoice at you,  
the cedars of Lebanon, saying,  
'Since you were laid low,  
no woodcutter comes up against us.'

<sup>9</sup> Sheol beneath is stirred up  
to meet you when you come;  
it rouses the shades to greet you,  
all who were leaders of the earth;  
it raises from their thrones  
all who were kings of the nations.

<sup>10</sup> All of them will answer  
and say to you:

- 'You too have become as weak as we!  
You have become like us!'
- <sup>11</sup> Your pomp is brought down to Sheol,  
the sound of your harps;  
maggots are laid as a bed beneath you,  
and worms are your covers.
- <sup>12</sup> "How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Day Star, son of Dawn!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
you who laid the nations low!
- <sup>13</sup> You said in your heart,  
'I will ascend to heaven;  
above the stars of God  
I will set my throne on high;  
I will sit on the mount of assembly  
in the far reaches of the north;
- <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;  
I will make myself like the Most High.'
- <sup>15</sup> But you are brought down to Sheol,  
to the far reaches of the pit.
- <sup>16</sup> Those who see you will stare at you  
and ponder over you:  
'Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
who shook kingdoms,
- <sup>17</sup> who made the world like a desert  
and overthrew its cities,  
who did not let his prisoners go home?'
- <sup>18</sup> All the kings of the nations lie in glory,  
each in his own tomb;
- <sup>19</sup> but you are cast out, away from your grave,  
like a loathed branch,  
clothed with the slain, those pierced by the sword,  
who go down to the stones of the pit,  
like a dead body trampled underfoot.
- <sup>20</sup> You will not be joined with them in burial,  
because you have destroyed your land,  
you have slain your people.
- "May the offspring of evildoers  
nevermore be named!
- <sup>21</sup> Prepare slaughter for his sons  
because of the guilt of their fathers,  
lest they rise and possess the earth,

and fill the face of the world with cities.”

<sup>22</sup> “I will rise up against them,” declares the LORD of hosts, “and will cut off from Babylon name and remnant, descendants and posterity,” declares the LORD. <sup>23</sup> “And I will make it a possession of the hedgehog, and pools of water, and I will sweep it with the broom of destruction,” declares the LORD of hosts.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD of hosts has sworn:

“As I have planned,  
so shall it be,  
and as I have purposed,  
so shall it stand,

<sup>25</sup> that I will break the Assyrian in my land,  
and on my mountains trample him underfoot;  
and his yoke shall depart from them,  
and his burden from their shoulder.”

<sup>26</sup> This is the purpose that is purposed  
concerning the whole earth,  
and this is the hand that is stretched out  
over all the nations.

<sup>27</sup> For the LORD of hosts has purposed,  
and who will annul it?  
His hand is stretched out,  
and who will turn it back?

<sup>28</sup> In the year that King Ahaz died came this oracle:

<sup>29</sup> Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you,  
that the rod that struck you is broken,  
for from the serpent’s root will come forth an adder,  
and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent.

<sup>30</sup> And the firstborn of the poor will graze,  
and the needy lie down in safety;  
but I will kill your root with famine,  
and your remnant it will slay.

<sup>31</sup> Wail, O gate; cry out, O city;  
melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you!  
For smoke comes out of the north,  
and there is no straggler in his ranks.

<sup>32</sup> What will one answer the messengers of the nation?  
“The LORD has founded Zion,  
and in her the afflicted of his people find refuge.”

**Isaiah 52:7 (ESV)**



<sup>7</sup> How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”