

Book of Nahuwm

Nahuwm: Introduction

Nahuwm

Except for his name, there is nothing else known about this prophet of Yahuwah. His name means full of comfort, or consolation meanings which have great significance when the focus of the prophetic message is correctly understood.

Timeframe

The period when Yahuwah delivered this prophecy to Nahuwm was probably around 650-630 B.C. This is based on the details of the overthrow of Thebes that are contained within the prophecy. This places Nahuwm after Yahshayahu and all of the prophets thus far covered in the Minor Prophets subdivision. He was probably a contemporary of the prophets Habakkuk and Zephaniah.

Content

In at least a historical sense, Nahuwm is a sequel to the book of Jonah because Nahuwm tells us what ultimately happened to the city of Nineveh. About a century before Nahuwm was given his prophecy, Jonah recorded how the Assyrians of Nineveh heeded Yahuwah's warning and thus delayed the destruction of the city during his day. Nahuwm follows up by revealing that, due to the Assyrians' decision to resume their old sins, Yahuwah fulfilled His prophecy that they would be destroyed. In fact, the city of Nineveh was so completely destroyed by fire that not until the 1840s was the site of the city discovered.

Although the book of Nahuwm does describe the overthrow of the city of Nineveh in the year 612 B.C., that event is only in reference to how it parallels the overthrow of what Nineveh actually represents. Nineveh was the great city of the Assyrian Empire. Yet, Nineveh in this prophecy actually represents another great city or city-state or empire that is yet to come. That city and empire is Babylon—not the Babylon of old, but the Babylon of the end-time: Babylon the Great (REV 18:2). Yahuwah inspired Jeremiah to record that Babylon was to be destroyed in the same manner as the Assyrian Empire, and although some of the material he recorded was applicable to Babylon of the seventh century B.C., the brunt of the prophecy about the destruction of Babylon in JER 50-51 revolves around Babylon the Great:

JER 50:18 Therefore thus says Yahuwah of hosts, the Aluhym of Israel: Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

The manner in which Yahuwah would punish the king of Assyria—as depicted in the prophecy of Nahuwm—was to destroy Assyria so thoroughly that it would never rise again. When Yahuwah is finished with Babylon the Great, neither will it ever rise again. The ultimate outcome of its destruction will be comforting. There will be comfort in knowing that the sinful system of Babylon will never again be allowed to exist.

Nahuwm: Chapter 1

1:1 The burden [TNK: pronouncement] against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahuwm the Elkoshite. [The location of Elkosh is unknown.]

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The Vision of Nahuwmm

The Hebrew translated burden literally means lifting up; the TNK attributes —lifting up to the voice. Unlike Micah’s prophecies, which came on at least three different occasions over many years, clearly, the term —the vision indicates this book is composed of one complete prophecy imparted by Yahuwah to Nahuwmm on one occasion.

1:2 Yahuwah is a passionate [NKJ: jealous], avenging Aluhym; Yahuwah is vengeful and fierce in wrath. Yahuwah takes vengeance on His enemies, He rages against His foes.
(TNK)

Jealous Aluhym

Yahuwah is zealously protective of His Law and strongly committed to justice. He emphasized those points at the time He spoke the Ten Commandments to Israel:

EXO 20:5-6 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, Yahuwah your Aluhym, am a jealous master, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

The manner in which Yahuwah fulfills these passions is by punishing those who disobey His Law through the outpouring of His wrath. This verse is foundational for the following prophecy; it establishes that Yahuwah will unleash His wrath on Babylon the Great and all the world because of the passion He has for His Law.

1:3 Yahuwah is slow to anger and of great forbearance [NKJ: great in power], but Yahuwah does not remit all punishment [NIV: will not leave the guilty unpunished].... (TNK)

Slow to Anger

Although Yahuwah is zealously passionate about the need for His Law to be kept, He is also exceedingly patient with those who fail to obey it. He does not immediately exercise His great power to destroy the disobedient, but gives them time to experience the repercussions of their failure to obey. However, for the unrepentant, there will be a day of reckoning when Yahuwah’s passion for the justice defined by His Law is unleashed.

1:3 (cont.) ...He travels [NKJ: Yahuwah has His way] in whirlwind and storm, and clouds are the dust on His feet. (TNK)

Yahuwah’s Power

Since Yahuwah has complete control over the physical creation and all the power within that realm, there is no place where the disobedient can go to escape the wrath of Yahuwah.

1:4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, and the flower of Lebanon wilts.

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Yahuwah's Wrath

This verse begins describing various events that will be included in the wrath Yahuwah pours out on the earth at the time of the end. The wilting of vegetation and evaporation of rivers and small seas could be attributed to several end-time prophecies. The two witnesses will have power to announce the withholding of rain during their three-and-a-half-year commission (REV 11:6).

The Fourth Bowl Plague will cause intense heat from the sun, scorching men with fire (REV 16:8). The Euphrates River will be dried up by the Sixth Bowl Plague (REV 16:12).

1:5 The mountains quake before Him, the hills melt, and the earth heaves at His presence, yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

This passage could be taken metaphorically by connecting powerful nations to —mountains and lesser nations to —hills, describing their fearful reaction to the wrath of Yahuwah. However, this can also be understood literally and connected to several end-time events. Volcanic activity causes mountains to quake, and the melting of hills could describe lava flows. A great earthquake accompanies the heavenly signs at the time of the Sixth Seal (REV 6:12-13). A great earthquake destroys a tenth of the city of Jerusalem at the time of the sounding of the Seventh Trump (REV 11:13). The most violent earthquake since Adam was created will occur at the time of the Seventh Bowl Plague (REV 16:17-18); this could be the same earthquake that splits the Mount of Olives when Jesus stands on it (ZEC 14:4).

1:6 Who can stand before His indignation? and who can endure the fierceness [NAS: burning] of His anger?...

Clearly, none of Yahuwah's enemies who refuse to repent will be able to survive the wrath of Yahuwah that will be unleashed during the Day of Yahuwah:

ISA 30:27 Behold, the authority of Yahuwah comes from afar, burning with His anger, and His burden is heavy; His lips are full of indignation, and His tongue like a devouring fire;

REV 6:15-17 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, —Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

1:6 (cont.) ...His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him.

This passage could be describing the rocks of ice to be used in the Seventh Bowl Plague:

REV 16:17, 21 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, —It is done!...From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed Yahuwah on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible. (NIV)

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1:7 Yahuwah is good, a stronghold [REB: sure protection] in the day of trouble; and He knows [NRS: protects] those who trust [TNK: seek refuge] in Him.

Unlike the enemies of Yahuwah, who cannot stand before His indignation, there will be some people who will be enabled to survive.

ISA 33:14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: —Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

ISA 33:15 He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil (NIV)

The enemies of Yahuwah will feel the full force of His wrath during the Day of Yahuwah. However, as He promised within the Ten Commandments, Yahuwah will show mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments (EXO 20:6) by providing them protection through that horrific time.

ISA 26:20 Come, My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation is past.

ZEP 2:3 Seek Yahuwah, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of Yahuwah's anger.

REV 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

1:8 But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place [NIV: Nineveh], and darkness will pursue His enemies.

Although not directly mentioned in the Hebrew of verse 8—yet inserted in the NIV, based on verse 1—Nineveh historically, and Babylon the Great at the time of the end, is the place Yahuwah prophesied He would utterly destroy. I believe that Yahuwah purposely left out from this verse the name of Nineveh to draw attention to the fact that this prophecy pertains to events that are pertinent to end-time Babylon.

An overflowing flood represents the massive army that sweeps into Israel to engage the armies of the Beast at the Sixth Bowl Plague (REV 16:12-16). The darkness that pursues Yahuwah's enemies can refer both to death and the darkness of the Fifth Bowl Plague (REV 16:10-11).

1:9 Whatever you devise against Yahuwah, He will make a complete end of it. Distress will not rise up twice. (NAS)

The enemies of Yahuwah will openly resist Amanuwal's coming.

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REV 19:19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

The Beast and False Prophet will be cast into a lake of fire, and the rest of the armies will be killed by Amanuwal (REV 19:20-21).

It will not be necessary ever again for Yahuwah to deal with Babylon, because, like the Assyrian Empire, it will be so completely destroyed (REV 18:8) it will never be able to rise again.

1:10 Like thorns they are entangled, like drunkards they are drunk; they are consumed like dry straw. (NRS)

The armies of Yahuwah's enemies will be engaged in war—entangled in battle in the Jezreel Valley when Amanuwal intervenes. Rather than surrendering to Him they will respond irrationally like drunkards because they are so intoxicated with the wine of deceptive decadence of Babylon the Great (REV 17:2). Their attempt to repel Amanuwal and His army will result in their rapid destruction.

ISA 10:17 So the Light of Israel will be for a fire, and his Kadosh One for a flame; it will burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day.

1:11 From you comes forth one who plots evil against Yahuwah, a wicked counselor [NRS: one who counsels wickedness].

The Beast will arise from among the enemies of Yahuwah. In fact, his appearance on the world scene is directly connected to the working of Satan (2TH 2:9). Under the devil's influence, he will gain the support of ten powerful rulers who receive their power at the time the Beast appears (REV 17:12-17). The Beast will plot evil against Yahuwah by claiming to be Ha'Mashyach (2TH 2:4) and then attempting to resist Amanuwal when He comes.

DAN 8:25 By cunning and deceit he will succeed in his designs; he will devise great schemes and wreak havoc on many when they least expect it. He will challenge even the Prince of princes and be broken, but by no human hand. (REB)

1:12 Thus says Yahuwah, Though they are at full strength and likewise many, even so, they will be cut off and pass away. Though I have afflicted you [NIV: you, O Yahuwdah], I will afflict you no longer. (NAS)

Verses 12 and 13 are a parenthetical insertion addressed to Yahuwdah, and emphasizing the soon-coming end of Yahuwah's estrangement from His people. This promise of relief and reconciliation indicates that the fulfillment of this prophecy will occur at the close of the age.

The timing of this prophecy is during the time when the Beast will have his throne of rulership in Jerusalem (DAN 11:45), prior to the unleashing of the Trumpet Plagues. At this point, Yahuwah will have used Babylon the Great to punish His hypocritical people (ISA 10:5-6). Despite how

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bleak the situation will then look, Yahuwdah is told the condition is about to end and never again be repeated (JOE 3:17).

1:13 —for now I will break off his yoke from you [NIV: your neck], and burst your bonds apart.

Once the Beast leaves Jerusalem to intercept the armies from the north (DAN 11:44), the Jews will regain control of the city. Then, when Amanuwal destroys the Beast and all the armies in the Jezreel Valley, all of Yahuwdah both within and outside the land of Israel will be set free.

ISA 10:25 Very soon My anger against you will end and My wrath will be directed to their destruction. (NIV)

ISA 10:27 It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil.

1:14 Yahuwah has given a command concerning you: —Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house [TNK: temples] of your idols I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig [NIV: prepare] your grave, for you are vile.

This verse returns to addressing Babylon the Great. Preventing the perpetuation of the name means the termination of any possibility of a future rebirth of the Babylonian system. The destruction of idols represents the obliteration of the false religious system that has permeated the Babylonian system since Nimrod established it in the post-Flood world.

ISA 14:22-23 —I will rise up against them, declares Yahuwah Almighty. I will cut off from Babylon her name and survivors, her offspring and descendants, declares Yahuwah. I will turn her into a place for owls and into swampland; I will sweep her with the broom of destruction, declares Yahuwah Almighty. (NIV)

1:15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings [NAS: news], who proclaims peace! O Yahuwdah, keep your appointed feasts, perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through [TNK: invade] you; he is utterly cut off.

This verse is complementary to one found in Yahshayahu:

ISA 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, —Your Aluhym reigns!

Both passages point to the time when Amanuwal, the Prince of peace (ISA 9:6), becomes King of kings. It is at that time—after He has destroyed all of the armies that have trespassed on His land—that He will stand on the Mount of Olives (ZEC 14:4), and then establish His reign from Mount Zion (JOE 3:17). He will announce the end of all calamity and suffering and proclaim the beginning of a new day of salvation for all who have survived the end-time plagues.

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During the time the Beast is in control of the land of Israel, observation of the festivals of Yahuwah will not be allowed (DAN 7:25). During that time, devout Jews will make vows, promising obedience when Ha'Mashyach frees them from the yoke of the Beast. The good tidings include the announcement of the destruction of that yoke and the promise that the yoke will never again come upon them because the wicked one Babylon will never rise again. The rest of Nahuwmm's prophecy closely parallels much of Joel 2, Jeremiah 50 and 51, and Revelation 18, all of which describe the destruction of Babylon the Great, beginning with the Sixth Trumpet Plague.

Nahuwmm: Chapter 2

2:1 The one who scatters [TNK: A shatterer; NIV: An attacker] has come up against you. Man the fortress, watch the road; strengthen your back, summon all your strength. (NAS)

Yahuwah has promised that after punishing His people for their hypocrisy, He will punish the Beast (ISA 10:12). The tool Yahuwah has appointed to punish the Beast who will establish his place of rule in the land of Israel and to punish the Beast's empire, Babylon the Great, is the massive coalition of armies that will assemble north of the land of Israel.

REV 9:13, 16 Then the sixth angel sounded...Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million...

JER 50:41-42 Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation and many kings shall be raised up from the ends of the earth. They shall hold the bow and the lance; they are cruel and shall not show mercy. Their voice shall roar like the sea; they shall ride on horses, set in array, like a man for the battle, against you, O daughter of Babylon.

Man the Fortress

Babylon's armies are sarcastically encouraged to do their very best to shore up their defenses for what is to come. Yet, no matter what preparations they make, there is nothing they can do to prevent what Yahuwah has already ordained will happen.

2:2 Yahuwah will restore the splendor of Yahaqob like the splendor of Israel, Although devastators [NIV: destroyers] have devastated them and destroyed their vine branches. (NAS)

Verse 2 is parenthetical; it is assurance that no matter how much devastation occurs within His land when the following prophecy unfolds, Yahuwah's promise to Yahaqob (GEN 28:13-15) will not fail.

This verse is part of the comfort contained in this message of Nahuwmm, or consolation. Despite what Yahuwah allows to happen within the borders of His land and to His scattered people, He will restore them as His people to His land where He will call them His children (HOS 1:10-11).

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2:3 The shields of his mighty men are made red, the valiant men are in scarlet. The chariots come with flaming torches in the day of his preparation [NRS: when he musters them], and the spears are brandished.

2:4 his chariots tear through the open country, and gallop across the broad spaces, flashing like torches, darting like lightning; (MOF)

Blood will begin to flow once the armies from the north clash with the armies of Babylon the Great in the Jezreel Valley. In Nahuwmm's day, chariots were vehicles that could carry, as well as warriors, various lethal devices that caused extensive casualties; future chariots...with flaming torches could represent modern vehicles that either send out flames from projectile barrels, as tanks do, or have flames behind them, as do rocket-propelled missiles and aircraft. Joel gives a similar description (JOE 2:3-5).

2:5 He commands his burly men [NIV: picked troops]; they stumble as they advance, they hasten up to her wall, where wheeled shelters are set up [NIV: the protective shield is put in place]. (TNK)

The term —her wall refers to a defensive cordon around the leader of Babylon the Great, and refers to the armies of the Beast that stand between him and the invading armies from the north. The objective of the northern armies is to totally destroy the forces that protect the leader of Babylon the Great, thus bringing down his empire. The only thing that impedes their advance is the vast sea of blood, and the mass of corpses that pile up when the opposing forces engage.

2:6 The floodgates are opened, and the palace is deluged. (TNK)

The armies from the north will flood into the land of Israel, overwhelming the area from which the empire of Babylon the Great will have ruled (DAN 11:45).

2:7 It is decreed that the city be exiled and carried away. Its slave girls moan like doves and beat upon their breasts. (NIV)

2:7 its mistress [TNK: Huzzab; JPS: the queen] is stripped, she is carried off, her maidens lamenting, moaning like doves, and beating their breasts. (RSV)

As the NIV and RSV reveal, this verse can have two different meanings, both of which are valid. The NIV confirms that Yahuwah has decreed that Babylon the Great will be like Sodom and Gomorrah—never inhabited again (JER 50:40).

The RSV describes how Yahuwah will fully expose the depth of the evil of the Babylonian system when He carries it into oblivion (ISA 47:1-5).

2:8 Nineveh is like a pool of water ebbing away. The cry goes up, ‘Stop! Stop!’ but none turn back. (REB)

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The end-time Babylon will be great because it will be composed of many nations and peoples that yield themselves to the power of the Beast. Those nations are symbolized by water.

REV 17:15 And he said to me, The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues.

When the Beast in the land of Israel comes under attack by the massive army invading from the north, all who have allied themselves will quickly begin deserting Babylon the Great.

JER 50:16 ...For fear of the oppressing sword everyone shall turn to his own people, and everyone shall flee to his own land.

2:9 Plunder the silver, plunder the gold! There is no end of treasure! An abundance of every precious thing! (NRS)

Babylon the Great will have immense wealth (REV 18:11-13).

2:10 She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts [TNK: spirits sink], and the knees shake; much pain is in every side, and all their faces are drained of color.

The arrogance of the Beast and those under his sway will be destroyed along with the material wealth accumulated by those who participate in the Babylonian system.

REV 18:15-17 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand at a distance for fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, alas, that great city... For in one hour such great riches came to nothing...

EZE 7:17-19 Every hand will be feeble, and every knee will be as weak as water. They will also be girded with sackcloth; horror will cover them; shame will be on every face, baldness on all their heads. They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of Yahuwah; they will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs, because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.

2:11 Where now is the [TNK: What has become of that] lions' den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear? (NIV)

2:12 Where is the lion that tore victims for his cubs and strangled [NKJ: killed] for his lionesses, and filled his lairs with prey and his dens with mangled flesh? (TNK)

Babylon was symbolized as a lion with eagle's wings (DAN 7:4). Babylon the Great will once again fulfill this symbolism. Like a savage lion that seeks to capture prey, satisfy its immediate appetite and then fill its den with the leftovers, so the human leader of Babylon the Great will seek to capture all nations in his quest to rule the world (ISA 10:13-14; DAN 8:24-25). However, Yahuwah will prevent him from succeeding by destroying him and his empire, so that they are no more.

2:13 —Behold, I am against you, says Yahuwah of hosts, 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 [MOF: threats] of your messengers shall be heard no more.

Yahuwah will cut off your prey by destroying the predator; without a predator there is no prey.

Nahuwmm: Chapter 3

3:1 Woe to the city of blood [NKJ: bloody city], full of lies, full of plunder [TNK: violence], never without victims [TNK: where killing never stops]! (NIV)

The Babylonian system which has replaced the way of Yahuwah in this present evil world is held accountable for the deaths of all who have lost their lives to those under the influence of that system. That includes those who have been killed because of their loyalty to Yahuwah, as well as people who have been destroyed by others who have lusted after what the system offers to those who have drunk from its cup of deception.

REV 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth.

3:2-3 The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots! Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses (NIV)

This is a reiteration of the invasion of the land of Israel by the armies from the north in order to engage the forces of the Beast.

3:4 because [NIV: all because] of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, the mistress of sorceries, who sells [NRS: enslaves; TNK: ensnared] nations through her harlotries, and families [TNK: peoples] through her sorceries.

The Babylonian system, like a harlot, attracts people by promoting immorality as desirable and, like a sorcerer, captures them with deception.

REV 18:23 ...by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.

The decreed destruction of Babylon the Great will be necessary because of all of the sin it has spawned; Yahuwah must take vengeance (1:2) on such blatant disregard of His Law.

3:5 Behold, I am against you, says Yahuwah of hosts; I will lift your skirts over your face, I will show the nations your nakedness, and the kingdoms your shame [NAS: disgrace].

Yahuwah will clearly reveal to the entire world the totality of the sinfulness of the Babylonian system.

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3:6 I will cast abominable filth upon you, make you vile, and make you a spectacle.

3:6 I will cover you with filth and show the world how vile you really are. (NLT)

The Hebrew word translated —abominable filth is normally applied to idols. Yahuwah will reveal all of the idolatrous sins committed by the wicked system of Babylon—nothing will be hidden.

3:7 It shall come to pass that all who look upon you will flee from you, and say, Nineveh is laid waste! Who will bemoan [NIV: mourn for] her? Where shall I seek comforters for you?

Once Babylon is destroyed, the vast majority of those who are still alive will distance themselves from any further association (JER 51:9). The only ones who will mourn will be those who mourn for themselves because they will no longer profit from the Babylonian system: kings, merchants, sea captains and traders. (REV 18:9-19).

3:8 Are you better than Thebes [NKJ: No Amon], situated on the Nile [NKJ: river], with water around her? The river was her defense, the waters her wall. (NIV)

Thebes

Thebes, located about 400 miles south of modern Cairo, was the mightiest city of ancient Egypt. Because of its location and defenses, it was thought to be impregnable.

3:9 Cush [NKJ: Ethiopia] and Egypt were a source of endless strength to her, Put and the Libyans were her allies. (REB)

To provide warriors for protection, Thebes could draw on the vast populations of all Egypt and its closest allies

3:10 Yet she was taken captive and went into exile. Her infants were dashed to pieces at the head of every street [TNK: every street corner]. Lots were cast for her nobles, and all her great men were put in chains. (NIV)

Despite its wealth, location, defenses and warriors, Thebes was conquered by the Assyrian Empire under the leadership of Ashurbanipal in 664/663 B.C.

3:11 You too will become drunk [REB: drink the cup of wrath until you are overcome]; (NIV)

Wrath of Yahuwah

Yahuwah has decreed that all nations will be required to drink the cup of Yahuwah's wrath, after which the ruler of Babylon the Great must do the same (JER 25:26).

REV 16:19 ...And great Babylon was remembered before Yahuwah, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath.

3:11 (cont.) ...you will go into hiding and seek refuge from the enemy. (NIV)

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Just like the Egyptians of Thebes, those who are part of the Beast power will be forced to flee for their lives.

3:12 All your fortifications are fig trees with ripe fruit—when shaken, they fall into the eater’s mouth. (NAS)

The military might of the Beast will quickly be overthrown as the northern armies advance against his armies.

3:13 Look at your troops—they are all women! The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has consumed their bars. (NIV)

Seeing the numbers of the invading armies from the north and the failure of the first lines of defense to slow their advance, the army of Babylon will lose heart.

JER 51:30 Babylon’s warriors have stopped fighting; they remain in their strongholds. Their strength is exhausted; they have become like women. Her dwellings are set on fire; the bars of her gates are broken. (NIV)

3:14-15 Draw water for the siege, strengthen your defenses! Work the clay, tread the mortar, repair the brickwork! There the fire will devour you; the sword will cut you down and, like grasshoppers, consume you. Multiply like grasshoppers, multiply like locusts! (NIV)

No matter how diligently they prepare their defenses, no matter how many reinforcements they assemble, they have no hope of survival.

3:16 You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more than the stars of the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away. (NIV)

The economic prosperity of Babylon the Great will create vast numbers of merchants. Although those merchants will mourn the loss of their source of wealth when Babylon is destroyed, they will separate themselves from Babylon (REV 18:15).

3:17 Your guards [KJV: crowned; RSV: princes] are like locusts, your officials [KJV: captains] like swarms of locusts that settle in the walls on a cold day—but when the sun appears they fly away, and no one knows where. (NIV)

Like the merchants, national leaders will mourn the loss of the powers and perks they derive from their relationship with Babylon, but they will also quickly desert it at its fall (REV 18:9-10).

3:18 Your shepherds slumber [NAS: are sleeping], O king of Assyria; your nobles rest in the dust [MOF: slumber in death]. Your people are scattered on the mountains, and no one gathers them.

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Yahuwah will destroy all of the leadership of Babylon the Great.

JER 51:57 And I will make drunk her princes and wise men, her governors, her deputies, and her mighty men. And they shall sleep a perpetual sleep and not awake, says the King, Whose name is Yahuwah of hosts.

In the context of this passage, the Beast's —scattered people would be those who were under his dominion but by that time will be dead and needing burial.

3:19 Nothing can heal your wound; your injury is fatal. Everyone who hears the news about you claps his hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty [NKJ: wickedness]? (NIV)

Yahuwah has determined that the Babylonian system is to become like Sodom and Gomorrah (JER 50:40)—utterly destroyed.

JER 50:46 At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth trembles, and the cry is heard among the nations.

All who have been enslaved by this wicked system will be comforted by its total demise and celebrate its annihilation, especially when their minds are opened and they are shown the truth about the impact the system has had on humanity from the foundation of the world.