

# Chapter 1

## Outline of Nahum

Based on analysed Hebrew text made visible through colors. <sup>1</sup>

In the following sections we give the Hebrew text with certain words colored which belong to paired or joined sections according to our analysis. In these paired or joined sections these words are either

1. the same
2. or from the same root,
3. synonyms or
4. antonyms.

1. The differences in the counting of the verses in Hebrew and in English are preserved in both. If not otherwise noted the Hebrew Bible quotations are according to OpenScriptures.org, ed., Westminster Leningrad Codex, [accessed September 1, 2012], 2010, <http://www.crosswire.org/sword/modules/ModInfo.jsp?modName=OSMHB> and the English Bible quotations are according to the ESV: Good News Publishers, ed., English Standard Version, [Accessed May 9, 2011], 2001, <http://www.crosswire.org/sword/modules/ModInfo.jsp?modName=ESV>

It is no coincidence that these categories remind us of certain aspects of the use of parallelisms in Hebrew poetry. Chiastic structures are built upon the use of pairs and repetitions. It seems that this was perceived as beautiful.

## 1.1 Outline of Nahum in English

The first verse is the title of the book presenting it as an inspired prophetic vision given by God to Nahum of Elkosh. 1:2-10 is a theophany of the Lord presenting him as the absolute sovereign and just Lord and Judge of the universe in front of whom nobody can stand.

1:11 to 3:19 is the main part of the book which applies the truth of 1:2-10 to the specific case of Niniveh out of whom somebody came who planned evil against the Lord. He, the king of Assyria, is sentenced to death and Niniveh the center of his power is utterly destroyed. This results in peace and liberation for Judah which is thus encouraged to serve God and celebrate his answering her prayers.

- |        |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:1    | An oracle concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh.                                                                                                             |
| 1:2-10 | God is the Lord of creation, ruling the heavens, the earth and its inhabitants with the mountains, the rivers and the sea. No one can stand before him when he punishes his enemies. |

- A1 1:11-15 From Niniveh came one "who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor", "he is utterly cut off" with his idolatry. The good news of God's peace after Niniveh's judgment is brought over the mountains to Judah who is freed and encouraged to celebrate the Lord's holy days.
- B1 2:1-10 The defensive powers of Niniveh collapse. She is plundered by her invading enemies.
- C1 2:11-13 Niniveh was the lions' den into which all prey was carried from all the earth but now the almighty Lord has turned against her and lets her be consumed by the invading armies.
- D1 3:1-3 "Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder - no end to the prey!" The invasion of the enemies fills the city and leaves it full of corpses without end and everywhere.
- C2 3:4-7 Niniveh was the great prostitute, the mistress of sorceries, that sold nations through her whorings and sorceries but now the almighty Lord has turned against her and disposes her nakedness and shame before all nations so that all will flee from her disaster leaving her no comforter.
- D2 3:8-11 Niniveh is not better than No-Amon (Thebes). She shall not escape judgment.
- B2 3:12-17 The defensive powers of Niniveh collapse. She is plundered by her invading enemies.
- A2 3:18-19 The shepherds of Assyria's king are asleep, his people scattered on the mountains. All who hear the news about him clap their hands over him. For upon whom has not come his unceasing evil?

## 1.2 Nahum's colored Hebrew text structure

### 1.2.1 1:1

1:1 מִשָּׂא נִינְוָה סֵפֶר חֲזוֹן נַחֻם הָאֱלֹקְשִׁי:

This is the title and introduction of the whole book.

### 1.2.2 1:2 - 10

- A1 1:2 "The LORD is a jealous and avenging God" who punishes his enemies.
- B1 1:3a "The LORD is slow to anger and ... will by no means clear the guilty."
- C 3b-6 God is the Lord of creation, ruling the heavens, the earth and its inhabitants with the mountains, the rivers and the sea. No one can stand before him when he punishes his enemies.
- B2 1:7 "The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him."
- A2 1:8-10 "He will make a complete end of the adversaries."

2:1 אֵל קְנֹזַי וְנֹקֵם יְהוָה נֹקֵם יְהוָה וּבְעַל חַמָּה  
 נֹקֵם יְהוָה לְצַרְיוֹ וְנוֹטֵר הוּא לֹא יִבִּיּוּ:  
 3 יְהוָה אֶרֶךְ אַפַּיִם וְגָדוֹל כֹּחַ וְנִקְהָ לֹא יִנְקָה  
 יְהוָה בְּסוֹפָהּ וּבְשַׁעֲרָהּ דֶּרְכּוֹ וְעַנְּן אֲבָק רִגְלָיו:  
 4 גֹּעַר בָּיִם וַיִּבְלֶשְׁהוּ וְכָל־הַנְּהָרוֹת הִחְרִיב  
 אֲמֹל בִּשְׁן וְכַרְמֵל וּפְרַח לְבָנוֹן אֲמֹל:  
 5 הָרִים רָעִשׁוּ מִמֶּנּוּ וְהַגְּבְעוֹת הִתְמַגְּגוּ

## 1.2. NAHUM'S COLORED HEBREW TEXT STRUCTURE5

וַתִּשָּׂא הָאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵיו וַתִּבֹּל וְכָל־יֹשְׁבֵי בָהּ:  
6 לִפְנֵי זַעֲמוֹ מִי יַעֲמוּד וּמִי יָקוּם בְּחֶרֶן אֶפְסוֹ  
חֲמַתּוֹ נִתְּכָה כְּאֵשׁ וְהַצָּרִים נִתְּצוּ מִמֶּנּוּ:  
7 טוֹב יִהְיֶה לְמַעֲזוֹ בֵּינוֹם צָרָה וַיִּדְעַ חֲסִי בּוֹ:  
8 וּבִשְׁטָף עֲבַר כָּלָה יַעֲשֶׂה מְקוֹמָהּ וְאִיבֵיו יִרְדֹּף־חֶשֶׁד:  
9 מֵהִתְחַשְׁבוֹן אֶל־יְהוָה כָּלָה הוּא עֹשֶׂה  
לְאַתְקוּם פְּעַמִּים צָרָה:  
10 כִּי עַד־סִירִים סְבָכִים וּכְסָבָאִם סְבוּאִים  
אֲכָלוּ כִּקְשׁ יִבֶּשׁ מְלֵא:

### 1.2.3 1:11 - 15

- A1 1:11-12a "From you came one who plotted evil against the LORD, a worthless counselor... they will be cut down and pass away."
- B1 1:12c-13 "Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more. And now I will break his yoke from off you and will burst your bonds apart."
- C 1:14 "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.'"
- B2 1:15a+b "Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows..."
- A2 1:15c "...for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off."

11:1 מִמֶּדֶד יֵצֵא חֹשֶׁב עַל־יְהוָה רָעָה יַעֲן בְּלִיעֵל: ס

12 כֹּה | אָמַר יְהוָה

אִם־שְׁלָמִים וְכֵן רַבִּים וְכֵן נִגְזְרוּ וְעָבְרָה

וְלִעֲנֹתֶיךָ לֹא אֶעֱנֶיךָ עוֹד:

13 וְעַתָּה אֲשַׁבֵּר מִטְהוֹ מַעְלֶיךָ וּמוֹסְרֹתֶיךָ אֲנַתֵּק:

14 וְצֹנָה עָלֶיךָ יְהוָה לֹא־יִזְרַע מִשְׁמֶיךָ עוֹד

מִבֵּית אֱלֹהֶיךָ אֲכַרִּית פֶּסֶל וּמִסִּכָּה אֲשִׁים קִבְרֶיךָ כִּי קִלּוֹת:

פ

1:2 הִנֵּה עַל־הַהָרִים רַגְלֵי מְבַשֵּׁל מִשְׁמַיִם שָׁלוֹם

חָגִי יְהוּדָה חַגִּיךָ שְׁלָמִי נִדְרֶיךָ כִּי לֹא יוֹסִיף עוֹד

לְעֹבֹר - בְּךָ בְּלִיעֵל כֹּלֵה נִכְרָת:

#### 1.2.4 2:1 - 10

- |    |       |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1 | 2:1a  | "The scatterer has come up against" your face.                                                                                                                        |
| B1 | 2:1b  | "Man the ramparts; watch the road"; strengthen your loins; "collect all your strength."                                                                               |
| C1 | 2:2   | "For the Lord is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers have plundered them".                                                        |
| D1 | 2:3-5 | The invading army is overwhelmingly powerful.                                                                                                                         |
| D2 | 2:6-8 | "The river gates are opened; the palace melts away; its mistress is stripped; she is carried off... Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away... none turns back." |

## 1.2. NAHUM'S COLORED HEBREW TEXT STRUCTURE7

- C2 2:9-10a "Take ... the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture. She is empty, and void, and waste" (KJV).
- B2 2:10b "Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins."
- A2 2:10c "All faces grow pale!"

2 עָלָה מִפִּיץ עַל־פְּנֵיךְ נִצּוֹר מְצָרָה  
צִפְּה־דָרְדֹרַךְ חֲזַק מִתְנַיִם אֲמִן כַּח מְאֹד:  
3 כִּי שָׁב יְהוָה אֶת־גְּאוֹן יַעֲקֹב כְּגְאוֹן יִשְׂרָאֵל  
כִּי בִקְרוֹם בְּקִלְיָם וְזִמְרִיָּהֶם שָׁחֲתוּ:  
4 מִגֵּן גִּבְרִיהוּ מְאֹדִם אֲנָשֵׁי־חַיִל מְתַלְעִים  
בְּאֲש־פְּלִדוֹת הָרֶכֶב בַּיּוֹם הַכִּינּוּ וְהַבְּרָשִׁים הָרַעְלוּ:  
5 בַּחוּצוֹת יִתְהוֹלְלוּ הָרֶכֶב יִשְׁתַּקְּשְׁקוּן בְּרַחֲבוֹת  
מְרִאֵיהֶן פְּלִפִּידִם כְּבָרְקִים יְרוּצְצוּ:  
6 יִזְכַּר אֲדִירָיו יִכְשְׁלוּ בַהֲלֻכוֹתֵם  
יִמְהָרוּ חֲזוֹמֹתֶיהָ וְהֵכֵן הַסֶּכֶד:  
7 שְׁעָרֵי הַנְּהָרוֹת נִפְתְּחוּ וְהַהִיכַל נִמְוָג:  
8 וְהָעֵבַר גִּלְתָּה הָעֵלְתָּה וְאַמְהַתִּיָּה מְנַהֲגוֹת כְּקוֹל יוֹנִים  
מִתְפַּת עַל־לִבְבָהֶן:  
9 וְנִינְיָה כְּבָרְכַת־מַיִם מִימֵי הָיָא וְהִמָּה נָסִים  
עֲמָדוֹ עֲמָדוֹ וְאַיִן מִפְּנֵיהָ:  
10 בָּזוּ כֶסֶף בָּזוּ זָהָב  
וְאַיִן לָצֹה לְתַכּוֹנָה כְּבָד מִכָּל פְּלֵי חֲמֻדָּה:  
11 בּוֹקָה וּמְבוֹקָה וּמְבַלְקָה

וְלֵב נָמִס וּפֶקַח בְּרַפִּים וְחִלְחָלָהּ בְּכָל־מִתְנִים  
וּפְנֵי כָל־קִבְצוֹ פֶּאֶרְוֹר:

### 1.2.5 2:11 - 3:11

- A1 2:11-12 Niniveh was the lions' den into which all prey was carried from all the earth.
- B1 2:13 But now the almighty Lord has turned against her and lets her be consumed by the invading armies.
- C1 3:1-3 "Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder - no end to the prey!" The invasion of the enemies fills the city and leaves it full of corpses without end and everywhere.
- A2 3:4 Niniveh was the great prostitute, the mistress of sorceries, that sold nations through her whorings and sorceries.
- B2 3:5-7 But now the almighty Lord has turned against her and disposes her nakedness and shame before all nations so that all will flee from her disaster leaving her no comforter.
- C2 3:8-11 Niniveh is not better than No-Amon (Thebes). She shall not escape judgment.

12 אֵיִה מְעֹז אֲרִיֹת וּמְרַעָה הוּא לְכַפְרִים  
אֲשֶׁר הִלְךְ אֲרִיָּה לְבִיא שָׁם גֹּר אֲרִיָּה וְאֵין מַחְרִיד:  
13 אֲרִיָּה טָרַף בְּדֵי גְרוֹתָיו וּמַחְנֵק לְלִבְאֲתָיו  
וַיִּמְלֵא־טָרֶף חֲרָיו וּמִעֲנִתָיו טָרְפָה:



- 14 הַנְּנִי אֵלֶיךָ נְאֻם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת  
וְהִבְעַרְתִּי בַעֲשׂוֹן רִכְבָּהּ וּכְפִירֶיךָ תֹאכַל חֶרֶב  
וְהִכְרַתִּי מֵאֶרֶץ טָרְפֵךָ וְלֹא־יִשְׁמַע עוֹד קוֹל מְלֹאכְכָה: ס  
1:3 הוּי עֵיר דְּמָיִם  
כִּלְהַב בַּחֹשׁ פָּרַק מְלֹאָה לֹא יִמֵּשׁ טָרֶף:  
2 קוֹל שׁוֹט וְקוֹל רַעַשׁ אוֹפֵן  
וְסוֹס דֹּהֵר וּמְרַכְבָּה מְרַקְדָּה:  
3 פָּרַשׁ מֵעֵלָה וְלֵהֵב חֶרֶב וּבִרְקַח חֲנִית  
וְרַב חֲלָל וְכַבֵּד פָּגַר  
וְאִין קֶצֶה לַגּוֹיָה יִכְשָׁלוּ בְּגוֹיֹתָם:  
4 מֵרַב זְנוּנֵי זוֹנָה טוֹבַת חֵן בַּעֲלַת כְּשָׁפִים  
הַמְכַרְת גּוֹיִם בְּזוֹנוּיָהּ וּמְשַׁפְּחוֹת בְּכִשְׁפֵיהָ:  
5 הַנְּנִי אֵלֶיךָ נְאֻם יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת  
וְגִלְתִּי שׁוֹלֶיךָ עַל־פְּנֶיךָ  
וְהִרְאִיתִי גּוֹיִם מֵעֶרְךָ וּמִמְּלָכוֹת קְלוֹנֶיךָ:  
6 וְהִשְׁלַכְתִּי עָלֶיךָ שִׁקְצִים וְנִבְלָתֶיךָ וְשִׁמְתֶיךָ כְּרָאִי:  
7 וְהָיָה כְּלִרְאֵיךָ יְדוּד מִמֶּךָ וְאָמַר  
שִׁדְדָה נִינְוָה מִי יָנוּד לָהּ מֵאִין אֲבַקֵּשׁ מִנְחָמִים לָךְ:  
8 הִתִּיטְבִּי מִנְּאֻם אֱמוּנָה הִישְׁבָּה בִּי אֲרִים מִיָּם סָבִיב לָהּ  
אֲשֶׁר־חִיל יָם מִיָּם חוֹמָתָה:  
9 כּוֹשׁ עֲצָמָה וּמְצָרִים וְאִין קֶצֶה  
פּוֹט וְלוֹבִים הָיוּ בְּעִזְרֹתֶיךָ:  
10 גַם־הִיא לְגִלְהָ הִלְכָה בְּשִׁבִי  
גַם עָלְיָהּ יִרְטָשׁוּ בְּרֹאשׁ כָּל־חוֹצוֹת  
וְעַל־נִכְבְּדֵיהָ יָדוּ גוֹרָל וְכָל־גְּדוֹלֵיהָ רָתְקוּ בְּזָקִים:  
11 גַם־אֶת תִּשְׁפָרֵי תְהִי נַעֲלָמָה

## גַּם־אֵת תְּבַקְשִׁי מֵעוֹז מְאוֹיֵב:

### 1.2.6 3:12 - 19

The last two verses of this section (3:18-19) do not only form a closure for this section and the book, but also point back to 1:11-15 (Hebrew 1:11-2:1).

- A1 3:12-13 "All your fortresses are like fig trees with first-ripe figs - if shaken they fall into the mouth of the eater. Behold, your troops are women in your midst. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has devoured your bars."
- B 3:14 "Draw water for the siege; strengthen your forts; go into the clay; tread the mortar; take hold of the brick mold!"
- A2 3:15-19 "There will the fire devour you; the sword will cut you off." Your innumerable merchants, your princes and scribes fly away. "Your shepherds are asleep, O king of Assyria; your nobles slumber. Your people are scattered on the mountains with none to gather them... All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?"

12 כָּל־מְבַצְרֶיךָ תֵּאֱנִים עִם־בְּכוֹרֶיךָ

אִם־יִנָּעוּ וְנָפְלוּ עַל־פִּי אוֹכְלִי:

13 הִנֵּה עֹמְדֵי נָשִׁים בְּקִרְבֶּיךָ

לְאִיבֶיךָ פְּתוּחַ נִפְתָּחוּ שַׁעְרֵי אֲרָצְךָ

אֲכָלָה אֲשֶׁר בְּרִיחֶיךָ:

- 14 מי מצול שְׁאֲבִי-לָךְ חֲזָקִי מִבְּצָרֶיךָ  
בָּאִי בְּטִיט וְרַמְסִי בַחֲמֹר הַחֲזִיקִי מִלְּבָן:  
15 שֵׁם תֵּאכְלֶךָ אֲשֶׁר תִּכְרִיתָךְ חֹרֵב תֵּאכְלֶךָ כִּי־לֶק  
הַתְּכַבֵּד כִּי־לֶק הַתְּכַבְּדִי כָּאֲרָבָה:  
16 הַרְבִּית רְכִלֶיךָ מִכּוֹכְבֵי הַשָּׁמַיִם  
יֶלֶק פָּשֵׁט וַיִּעָף:  
17 מִנְּזִרֶיךָ כָּאֲרָבָה וְטַפְסְרֶיךָ כְּגֹב גְּבִי  
הַחֹנָגִים בַּגְּדֹרוֹת בַּיּוֹם קָרָה  
שָׁמַשׁ זָרְחָה וְנוֹדַד וְלֹא־נֹדַע מְקוֹמוֹ אֵימ:  
18 נָמוּ רַעֲיֶיךָ מֶלֶךְ אֲשׁוּר יִשְׁכְּנוּ אֲדִירֶיךָ  
נִפְשׁוּ עִמָּךְ עַל־הַהָרִים וְאִין מְקַבְּץ:  
19 אִין־כְּהֵה לְשִׁבְרֶךָ נַחְלָה מִכְּתָךְ  
כֹּל | שְׁמַעִי שְׁמַעֶךָ תִּקְעוּ כֹל עָלֶיךָ  
כִּי עַל־מִי לֹא־עֲבָרָה רַעַתָּךְ תָּמִיד: