

1 To wit, whē God shal shew him selfe a de-luerer of his Church, and a destroyer of his enemies
k Meaning, the cruel empire of the Babylonians
l When the Church shalbe restored, they that were enemies afore, shal come out of all the corners of the worlde vnto her, so that neither holdes, riuers, seas nor mountaines shalbe able to let them
m Afore this grace appeare, he sheweth how piteously the hypocrites shall be punished, seeing that the earth it self, which can not siane, shall be made waste because of their wickednes
n The Prophet prayeth to God to be merciful vnto his Church, when they shulde be scattered abroad as in solitarie places in Babylon and to be beneficial vnto them as in time past
o God promiseth to be favorable to his people as he had bene afore time

- 11 This is the day, that thy walles shal be buylt: this day shal driue faire away the decre.
- 12 In this day also they shal come vnto thee from ¹ Asshúti, and from the strong cities, and from the strong holdes euen vnto the riuers, and from sea to sea, & from mountaine to mountaine.
- 13 Notwithstanding, the land shalbe desolate because of the that dwell therein, and for the sutes of ^m their inuentions.
- 14 Fede thy people with thy rod, the flocke of thine heritage (which dwell solitarie in the wood) as in the middes of Caímél: let them fede in Bashán and Gileád, as in olde time.
- 15 According to the dayes of thy coming out of the land of Egypt, wil I shewe vnto thee marueilous things.

- 16 The nacions shal se, and be confounded for all their power: they shal laye their hand vpon their mouth: and their eares shal be deafe.
- 17 They shal lick the dust like a serpet: they shal moue out of their holes like wormes: they shal be afraide of the Lord our God, and shal feare because of thee.
- 18 Who is a God like vnto thee, that taketh away iniquitie, & passeth by the trasgression of the remnant of his heritage! He reteineth not his wrath for euer, because mercie pleaseth him.
- 19 He wil turne againe, and haue compassiō vpon vs: he wil subdue our iniquities, & cast all their sinnes into the bottome of the sea.
- 20 Thou wilt performe thy trueth to Iakób, & mercie to Abraham, as thou hast sworne vnto our fathers in olde time.

p They shalbe as dumme men & dare bragge no more
q They shalbe astonished, and afraid to heare men speake, lest they shulde heare of their destruction
r They shal fall flat on the grounde for feare
s As though he wolde not see it, but winke at it.
t Meaning, of his elect

u The Church is assured, that God wil declare in effect the trueth of his merciful promes, which he had made of olde to Abraham, and to all that shulde apprehende the promes by faith.

NAHUM.

THE ARGUMENT.

AS they of Nineuē shewed them selues prompt and ready to receive the worde of God at Ionahs preaching, and so turned to the Lord by repentance so after a certeine time rather giuing the selues to worldelie meanes to increase their dominion, then seeking to continue in the feare of God, and trade wherein they had begone, they cast off the care of religion, and so returned to their vomite, and prouoked Gods iuste iudgement against them, in afflicting his people. Therefore their citie Nineuē was destroyed, and Meróch-baladan King of Babel (or as some thinke Nebuchad-nexxár) enjoyed the empire of the Assyrius. But because God haibe a continual care of his Church, he stirreth vp his Prophet to comfort the godlie, shewing that the destruction of their enemies shoulde be for their consolation. And as it semeth, he prophesied about the time of Hecckiah, and not in the time of Manasseh his sonne, as the Iewes write.

CHAP. I.

Of the destruction of the Assyrians, and of the deliuerance of Israel.

a Read Isa 37.
b The vision or reuelation, which God commaunded Nahúm to write concerning Nineuē
c That is, borne of a poore vilage in the tribe of Siméon.
d Meaning, of his glorie
e With his he is but angrie for a time: but his angrie neuer awageth toward the reprobate, though for a time he deferre it
f Thus wicked wolde make Gods mercie an occasiō to siane, but the Prophet willett them to consider his force and iustice.



He burdenē of Nineuē.
The boke of the vision of Nahúm the Elkesite.
God is ielous, and the Lord reuengeth: the Lord reuengeth: the Lord will take vengeance for his aduersaries, and he will requite wrath for his enemies.
The Lord is slowe to angrie, but he is great in power, and will not surely cleare the wicked: the Lord hath his way in the whirle winde, and in the storme, and the cloudes are the dust of his fete.
He rebuketh the sea, and dryeth it, and he dryeth vp all the riuers: Bashán is waste and Carmél, and the floure of Lebanon is wasted.
The mountaines tremble for him, & the

- hilles melt, & the earth is burnt at his sight, yea, the worlde, and all that dwell therein.
- 6 Who can stand before his wrath? or who can abide in the fiercenes of his wrath? his wrath is powred out like fyre, and the rockes are broken by him,
- 7 The Lord is good and as a strong holde in the day of trouble, and he knoweth them that trust in him.
- 8 But passing ouer as with a flood, he will utterly destroye the place thereof, and darkenes shal pursue his enemies.
- 9 What do ye imagine against the Lord? he wil make an utter destruction: afflictiō shal not rise vp the seconde time.
- 10 For he shal come as vnto thornes folden one in another, and as vnto drunkardes in their drunkennes: they shalbe deuoured as stubble fully dried.

g If all creatures be at Gods commandment: none is able to resist his wrath, shal misser his selfe and thinke by any meanes to escape wē he prouoketh his God to angrie
h Left faithful shulde be discouraged by hearing the power of God, he sheweth that his mercie apperteyne vnto them, & that he hath the care ouer them
i Signifying, that God wil suddenly destroye Nineuē, and the Assyrians in such sorte as they shal lie in perpetual darkenes, & neuer recover their strength againe
k He sheweth that the enterprises of the Assyrians against Iudáh and the Church, were against God, & therefore he wolde destroye the at once, & he shulde not neede to returne the seconde time
l Though the Assyrians thinke the selues like thornes, & prick on all sides yet the Lord will set fyre on the, & as drunkardes are not able to stand against any force, so they shalbe not able to resist his

m Which may be vnderstande
 etier of Saneherib, or of
 whole body of the people of
 Nineuēh.
 n Though they thinke the felues
 in moſte ſaſette, and of
 greaſt ſtrength yet when
 God ſhal paſſe by, he wil
 deſtroyethem: norwithſtan-
 ding he cōſorteth his Church
 and promiſeth to make aend
 of puniſhing them by the
 Affyrians
 Iſa 52,7.
 Rom 10,15.
 o Meaning Sa-
 cherib, who ſhulde haue no
 more childre, but he ſhame
 in the houſe of his gods.
 2. King 19,35 p Which
 peace the Iewes ſhulde
 enjoy by the death of
 Saneherib.

1 There cometh one out of thee that
 imagineth euil againſt the Lord, euen a
 wicked counſelour.
 2 Thus ſaith the Lord, Though they be
 quiet, & alſo manie, yet thus ſhal they be
 cut of when he ſhal paſſe by: though I haue
 afflicted thee, I wil afflict thee no more.
 3 For now I wil breake his yoke from thee,
 and wil burſt thy bondes in ſondre.
 4 And the Lord hath giuen a comman-
 dement concerning thee, that no more of
 thy name be ſowē: out of the houſe of thy
 gods wil I cut of the grauen, and the mol-
 ten image: I wil make it thy graue for
 thee, for thou art vile.
 5 Beholde vpon the mountaines the ſete
 of him that declarerh, & publiſherh peace:
 o Iudáh, kepe thy ſolēne feaſtes, performe
 thy vowes: for the wicked ſhal no more
 paſſe through thee: he is vtterly cut of.
 2. King 19,35 p Which peace the Iewes ſhulde
 enjoy by the death of Saneherib.

CHAP. II.

He deſcribeth the victories of the Caldeans againſt
the Affyrians.

The deſtroyer is come before thy fa-
 ce: kepe thy munitiō, loke to the way:
 make thy loynes ſtrong: increaſe thy ſtrength
 mightily.
 2 For the Lord hath turned away the
 glorie of Iakób, as the glorie of Iſraēl:
 for the emptiers haue emptied them out, &
 marred their vine branches.
 3 The ſhield of his mightie men is made
 red: the valiant men are in ſkarlet: the
 charrets ſhalbe as in the fyre & flames in
 the day of his preparation, and the ſirre
 trees ſhal tremble.
 4 The charrets ſhal rage in the ſtretes: thei
 ſhal runne to and fro in the hie wayes: thei
 ſhal ſeme like lampes: they ſhal ſhote like
 the lightning.
 5 He ſhal remember his ſtrōg men: they
 ſhal ſtumble as they go: they ſhal make
 haſte to the walles thereof, and the defen-
 ſe ſhalbe prepared.
 6 The gates of the riuers ſhalbe opened,
 and the palace ſhal melt.
 7 And Huzzáb the Queene ſhalbe led away
 captiue, and her maides ſhal leade her as
 with the voyce of doues, ſmiting vpon
 their breſts.
 8 But Nineuēh is of olde like a poole of
 water: yet they ſhal flee away. Stand, ſtād,
 ſhal they crye: but none ſhal loke backe.
 9 Spoyle ye the ſiluer, ſpoyle the golde:
 for there is none end of the ſtore, & glo-
 rie of all the pleaſant veſſels.
 10 She is emptye and voyde and waſte, &
 the heart melteth, and the knees ſmite to-
 gether, and ſorow is in all loines, and the
 faces of them all gather blackenes.
 11 They ſhalbe ſcattered, & ſhal not loke
 backe though me wolde call them. h God cōmandeth the enemies
 to ſpoile Nineuēh, & promiſeth the infinite
 riches, & treasures that is in Nineuēh, & the
 men thereof ſhalbe after this ſorte. k Read Ioiel 2,6.

a That is, Ne-
 buchad-
 zār is in a
 redines to de-
 ſtroye the Af-
 ſyrians: & the
 Prophet deri-
 deth the enter-
 priſes of Affy-
 rians w prepared
 to reſiſt him
 b Seng God
 hath puniſhed
 his owne peo-
 ple Iudáh and
 Iſraēl, he wil
 now puniſh
 enemies by
 whome he
 ſcourged the,
 Read Iſa 10,12
 c Signifying,
 the Iſraelites
 were vtterly
 deſtroyed
 d Bothe to fea-
 re the enemye,
 and alſo that
 they them ſel-
 ues ſhulde not
 ſo ſone eſpie
 blood one of
 another to dif-
 courage them
 e Meaning,
 their ſpeares
 ſhulde ſhake
 and craſhe to-
 gether
 f The the Af-
 ſyrians ſhal
 ſeke by all
 meanes to ga-
 ther their pow-
 er, but all
 things ſhal
 faile them
 g The Affyrians
 wil ſcatter the
 felues & ſay,
 that Nineuēh
 is ſo ancient
 it can neuer
 periſh, & is as a
 ſiſt poole, who
 ſe waters they
 that walke on
 the backes ca-
 not touche, but
 they ſhalbe
 ſcattered, & ſhal
 not loke backe
 though me wolde
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 & the men thereof
 ſhalbe after this
 ſorte. k Read
 Ioiel 2,6.

11 Where is the dwelling of the lyons, &
 the paſture of the lyōs whelpes? where the
 lyon, & the lyonelle walked, and the lyons
 whelpe, and none made them afraid.
 12 The lyon did teare in pieces ynough for
 his whelpes, and woryed for his lyonelle,
 and filled his holes with praye, & his denes
 with ſpoyle.
 13 Beholde, I come vnto thee, ſaith the Lord
 of hoſtes, & I wil burne her chartets in the
 ſmoke, and the ſworde ſhal deuoure thy
 yong lyons, & I wil cut of thy ſpoile from
 the earth, & the voice of thy meſſengers
 ſhal no more be heard.

CHAP. III.

Of the fall of Nineuēh. No power can eſcape the
hand of God.

Bloodie citie, it is all ful of lies, and
 robberie: the pray departeth not:
 2 The noyce of a whippe, & the noyce of
 the moung of the wheles, and the bea-
 ting of the horſes, and the leaping of the
 charrets.
 3 The horſeman liſteth vp bothe the bright
 ſworde, and the glittering ſpeare, and a mul-
 titude of ſlaine, and the dead bodies are
 manie: there is none end of their corpes:
 they ſtumble vpon their corpes.
 4 Becauſe of the multitude of the fornications
 of the harlot that is beautiful, and
 is a maſtreſſe of witchcraft, and ſelleth the
 people thorowe her whoredome, and the
 nations thorowe her witchcraftes.
 5 Beholde, I come vpon thee, ſaith the Lord
 of hoſtes, and wil diſcouer thy ſkirtes vpon
 thy face, and wil ſhewe the nations thy
 filthines, and the kingdome thy ſhame.
 6 And I wil caſt filth vpon thee, and make
 thee vile, and wil ſet thee as a gaſing
 ſtocke.
 7 And it ſhal come to paſſe that all they
 that loke vpon thee, ſhal flee from thee, and
 ſay, Nineuēh is deſtroyed, who wil haue
 pitie vpon her? where ſhal I ſeke comfor-
 ters for thee?
 8 Art thou better then No, which was ful
 of people: that laye in the riuers, and had
 the waters round about it: whoſe ditche
 was the ſea, & her wall was from the ſea?
 9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her ſtrength &
 there was none end. Put and Lubim were
 her helpers.
 10 Yet was ſhe caryed away, & went into
 captiuitie: her yong children alſo were da-
 ſhed in pieces at the head of all the ſtre-
 tes: & thei caſt lottes for her noble mē, &
 all her mightie mē were bound in chaines.
 11 Alſo thou ſhalt be drunken: thou ſhalt
 hide thy ſelf, and ſhalt ſeke helpe becauſe
 of the enemye.
 12 All thy ſtrong cities ſhalbe like fig trees
 & the firſt ripe figs: for if thei be ſhaken, thei
 fall into the mouth of the eater.
 13 Beholde,

I Me ſing, Na-
 nenēh, whoſe
 inhabitants were
 cruel like the
 lyons & giuen
 to all oppreſ-
 ſion & ſpared
 no violence
 or tyrannie to
 prouide for
 their wiues, &
 children
 m That is, af-
 ſone as my
 wrath begin-
 neth to kinde
 n Signifying
 heraldes, w
 were accuſt-
 omed to procla-
 me waire ſo-
 me read of
 thy gumme
 te the wherewith
 Nineuēh was
 wont to bruſe
 the bones of
 the poore.
 Chap III.
 a It neuer cea-
 ſeth to ſpoile
 and robbe.
 b He ſheweth
 how the Cal-
 deans ſhal ha-
 re, and how
 courageous
 their horſes
 ſhalbe in bea-
 ting the grou-
 de when they
 come againſt
 the Affyrians.
 c He comprē-
 neth Nineuēh
 to an harlot, &
 by her beautie
 and ſubrilitie
 enticeth yong
 men, & bring-
 eth them to
 deſtruction.
 d Meaning, A-
 lexandria, w
 was in league
 w ſo manie na-
 tions, and yet
 was now de-
 ſtroyed.
 e Or, ſhim.

- 13 Beholde, thy people with thee are womē: the gates of thy land shalbe opened vnto thine enemies, & the fyre shal deuoure thy battes.
- 14 Drawe thee waters for the siege: fortifie thy strong holdes: go into the claye, and temper the mortar: make strong bricke.
- 15 There shal fyre deuoure thee: the sworde shal cut thee off: it shal eat thee vp like fyre locustes, though thou be multiplied like fyre locustes, & multiplied like fyre grasshopper.
- 16 Thou hast multiplied thy marchantes aboute the staries of heauen: the locust spoileth and flieth awaie.
- 17 Thy princes are as the grasshoppers, and thy captaines as the great grasshoppers w^h remaine in the hedges in the colde daye: but when the sunne ariseth, they flee awaie & their place is not knowē where they are.
- 18 Thy ^f shepherdes do slepe, o King of Asshur: thy strong mē lie downe: thy people is scattered vpon the mountaines, and no man gathereth them.
- 19 There is no healing of thy wounde: thy plague is grieuous: all that heare fyre bruite of thee, shal clappe the hands ouer thee: for vpon s^e whome hathe not thy malice passed continually?

^e Signifying, y^e Gods iudgements shulde suddenly destroye the Assyrians, as these vermine are with raine or change of weather.

^f Thy princes and counsellors:

^g Meaning, y^e there was no people, to whom the Assyrians had not done hurt.

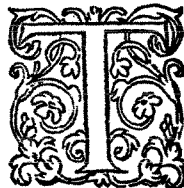
H A B A K K U K

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The Prophet complaineth vnto God, considering the great felicitie of the wicked, and the miserable oppression of the godlie, which indure all kinde of affliction & cruelie, and yet can see none end. Therefore he had this reuelation shewed him of God, that the Caldeans shulde come and take them awaie captiues, so that they coulde loke for none end of their troubles as yet, because of their stubbernes and rebellion against the Lord. And lest the godlie shulde despaiue, seeing this horrible confession, he comforteth them by this that God wil punish the Caldeans their enemies, when their pride and cruelie shalbe at height: wherefore he exhorteth the faithfull to patience by his owne example, and sheweth them a forme of prayer, wherewith they shulde comfort themselves.

C H A P. I.

^a A complains against the wicked that persecute the iust.



He burden, which Habakkúk y^e Prophet did see. O Lord, how long shal I crye, and thou wilt not heare! euen crye out vnto thee ^a for violence, and thou wilt not helpe!

³ Why doest thou shewe me iniquitie, and cause me to beholde sorowe ^b for spoyling, and violence are before me: and there are that raise vp strife and contention.

⁴ Therefore the Law is dissolued, and iudgement doeth neuer go forthe: for the wicked doeth ^b compass about the righteous: therefore ^c wrong iudgement procedeth.

⁵ Beholde among the heathen, and regarde, & wonder, & marueil: for I wil worke a worke in your daies: ye wil not beleue it, though it be tolde you.

⁶ For lo, I raise vp the Caldeans, that bitter and furious nacion, which shal go vpō the breadth of the land to possesse the dwelling places, that are not theirs.

⁷ They are terrible & feareful: ^c their iudgement and their dignitie shal procede of them selues.

⁸ Their horses also are swifter the^e the leopards, and are more swifce then the wolves in the^e euening: & their hoisemen are many: & their hoisemen shal come frō farre: they shal flie as y^e eagle hasting to meat.

⁹ They come all to spoyle: before their faces shalbe an ^f Eastwinde, and they shal gather the captiuitie, & as the sand.

¹⁰ And they shal mocke the Kings, and the princes shalbe a skorne vnto them: they shal deride euery strong holde: for they shal gather ^b dust, and take it.

¹¹ Then shal they ¹ take a courage, & transgresse & do wickedly, ^{imp}uting this their power vnto their god.

¹² Art not thou of olde, o Lord my God mine holy one? we shal ¹ not dye: O Lord, y^e hast ordeined them for iudgement, and o God, thou hast established them for correction.

¹³ Thou art of pure eyes, and canst not see euil: y^e canst not beholde wickednes: wherefore doest thou loke vpon the trasgressors, & holdest thy tongue when the wicked deuoureth the man, that is more righteous then he?

¹⁴ And makest men as the ¹ fish of the sea, & as the creeping things, that haue no ruler ouer them.

¹⁵ They take vp all with the angle. they catche it in their net, and gather it in their yarne, whereof they reioyce & are glad.

¹⁶ Therefore they sacrifice vnto their ^mnet and burne incense vnto their yarne, because by them their porcion is fat & their meat plenteous.

¹⁷ Shal they therefore stretch out their net & not spare continually to slaye ⁿ y^e nations?

^f For y^e Iewes make feared this winde, because it destroyed their fruites.

^g They shalbe so many in number.

^h They shal cast vp mountes against it.

ⁱ The Prophet comforteth the faithful that God wil also destroy the Babylonians, because they shal abuse his victorie and become proud and insolēt, attributing the praise hereof to their idoles.

^k He assureth the godlie of Gods protection, shewing that the enemy can do no more then God hath appointed, and also that their finnes required such a sharpe rod.

^l So that the great denoueth the finale and the Caldeans destroy all the world.

^m Meaning, y^e the enemies scatter the selues and glorie in their owne force, power, wit.

ⁿ Meaning, y^e they shulde not.

^a The Prophet complaineth vnto God and bewaileth that among y^e Iewes is left none equitie nor brotherlie loue: but in stead he seeth reigne cruelie, theft, contention & strife.

^b To suppress him if any shulde shewe him self zealous of Gods cause.

^c Because the iudges which shulde redresse this excess are as euil as the rest.

^d As in times past you wolde not beleue Gods wordes, so shal ye not now beleue the strange plagues which are at hand.

^e They them selues shal be your iudges in this cause and none shal haue autoritie ouer the^e to controlle them.

Lepe 33.