



Nachum Introduction

- Nachum Ha'Elkoshi is the seventh of the Trey Asar prophets and is only three perakim long.
- Nachum started prophesying seventy years prior to the destruction of the first Beis Hamikdash, during the reign of King Menashe.
- Nachum's contemporaries were Yoel and Chavakuk.
- Seder Olam learns that Nachum came from the town of Elkoshi located in Yehudah. However, others learn that Elkoshi was the name of a relative of Nachum.
- The Mikra'os Gedolos' introduction brings that Nachum was a descendent of Elkana and Penina, and therefore related to Shmuel Hanavi, who was born to Elkana and Chana.
- Nachum's prophesy is solely about the downfall of Ashur, and particularly the city of Ninveh. This was the same city of Ninveh mentioned in sefer Yonah. One of the reasons that Yonah had not wanted to prophesy for Ninveh was that he had seen with divine insight that in the future the people of Ashur from the town of Ninveh would cause great harm to the Jewish people.
- It's important to get a glimpse of the historical background of Ashur in order to get a better understanding of the boldness of Nachum Hanavi. Ashur had been the region's greatest power for approximately 130 years. They were terrible, cruel conquerors. They would subject their victims to great torture and displace the people they would conquer. They forced anyone who fell into their hands to worship their gods.
- It was the kingdom of Ashur, led by Sancheriv (aka King Pul, aka Tiglas Pileasar) who had ravaged the ten tribes of Yisrael in Shomron, exiled them from their land, and then replaced the residents of the Shomron with foreigners.
- Nachum prophesying against Ashur might have seemed like a preposterous idea to the people.
- Its also important to mention that Nachum lived during the time of King Menashe. King Menashe had reversed all the great spiritual advancements of his father, King Chizkiya, who had begun restoring the nation to its original divinity and purity. Menashe, however, essentially reversed and ruined all the good that his father had done.
- Menashe had gone so far as to place idols in the courtyard of the Beis Hamikdash. Menashe eventually did teshuvah at the end of his life, but the destruction he had wrought was irreversible for the time being.
- Indeed, Nachum's prophesy regarding the destruction of Ashur and Ninveh came true forty years later, twenty six years prior to the destruction of the first Beis Hamikdash, when the kingdoms of Bavel and Madai conquered the Ashurean capital city, Ninveh.
- Perhaps Nachum was named Nachum from the word nechama, meaning consolation, as it was considered a great consolation to Am Yisrael that Sancheriv would be destroyed and the Jewish people would be left alone.
- God is constantly looking out for His nation. At some points in history God's providence is revealed for all to see and experience. At other points in history, God works in a more

concealed and hidden manner. Although the Beis Hamikdash had not been destroyed yet it the time of Nachum, the nation was undoubtedly on a steady decline, and they felt that Hashem's hand was hidden from them. The nechama and comfort is that Hashem is always guiding world history to a better place, as every day, in some way, the world keeps on evolving in the direction towards the revelation of Mashiach.

- May we have deep faith in the coming of the final redemption as we take a look around us and see the world falling apart. Or we can look with eyes of tzadikim and see how the world is becoming better, preparing itself for the final geulah, when knowledge of God will fill the world like the waters that cover the sea. Let us place our faith in God and firmly resolve to serve Him to the best of our abilities.
- We will be starting Nachum in the next shiur.
- Thank you..