

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Nahum.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

THE CITY OF NINEVEH,
THE JUDGMENT OF GOD,
AND A WARNING TO THE UNITED STATES

"Believers Living in a Nation of Moral Decline"

Nahum 1:15

Oct. 5, 2014

Nahum 1:15

15 Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings
good news,

Isa 52:7

7 How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who announces peace
And brings good news of happiness,
Who announces salvation,
Who announces peace!

Celebrate your feasts, O Judah;

Pay your vows.

For never again will the wicked one pass through you;
He is cut off completely.

Nineveh

The greatest empire of its time.

A leader in culture, education, wealth, influence, power and innovation.

A military superpower

An unprecedented spiritual past.

An empire who had decided to ignore God's Word.

An empire who had become internally corrupt and evil and manifested its evil particularly in the ruthless treatment of their enemies.

United States

The greatest nation of its time.

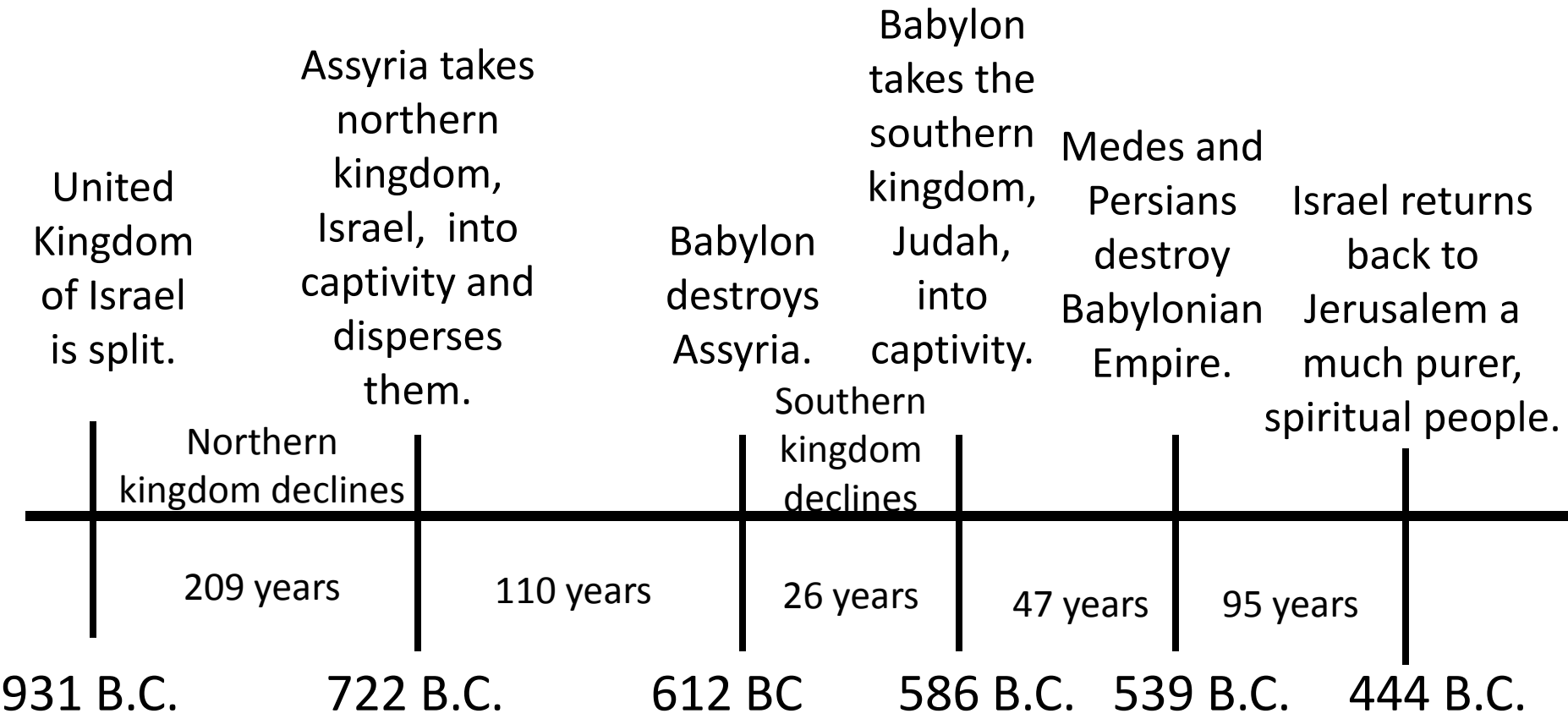
A leader in culture, education, wealth, influence, power and innovation.

A military superpower.

An unprecedented spiritual past.

A nation who has decided to ignore God's Word.

A nation who is internally fast becoming very sinful and evil, and is manifesting its evil in the moral decay that is sweeping over the country.



- 1. God uses nations to accomplish His purposes.**
- 2. One of God's purposes is to discipline God's people for drifting from God and His Word, compromising with and becoming like the world, and committing spiritual adultery.**
- 3. Nations come and go in history. What God is concerned about is the purity and unique identity of His people, whether Israel or the Church.**

Isa 33:1

1 Woe to you, O destroyer,

While you were not destroyed;

And he who is treacherous, while others did not deal treacherously with him.

As soon as you finish destroying, you will be destroyed;

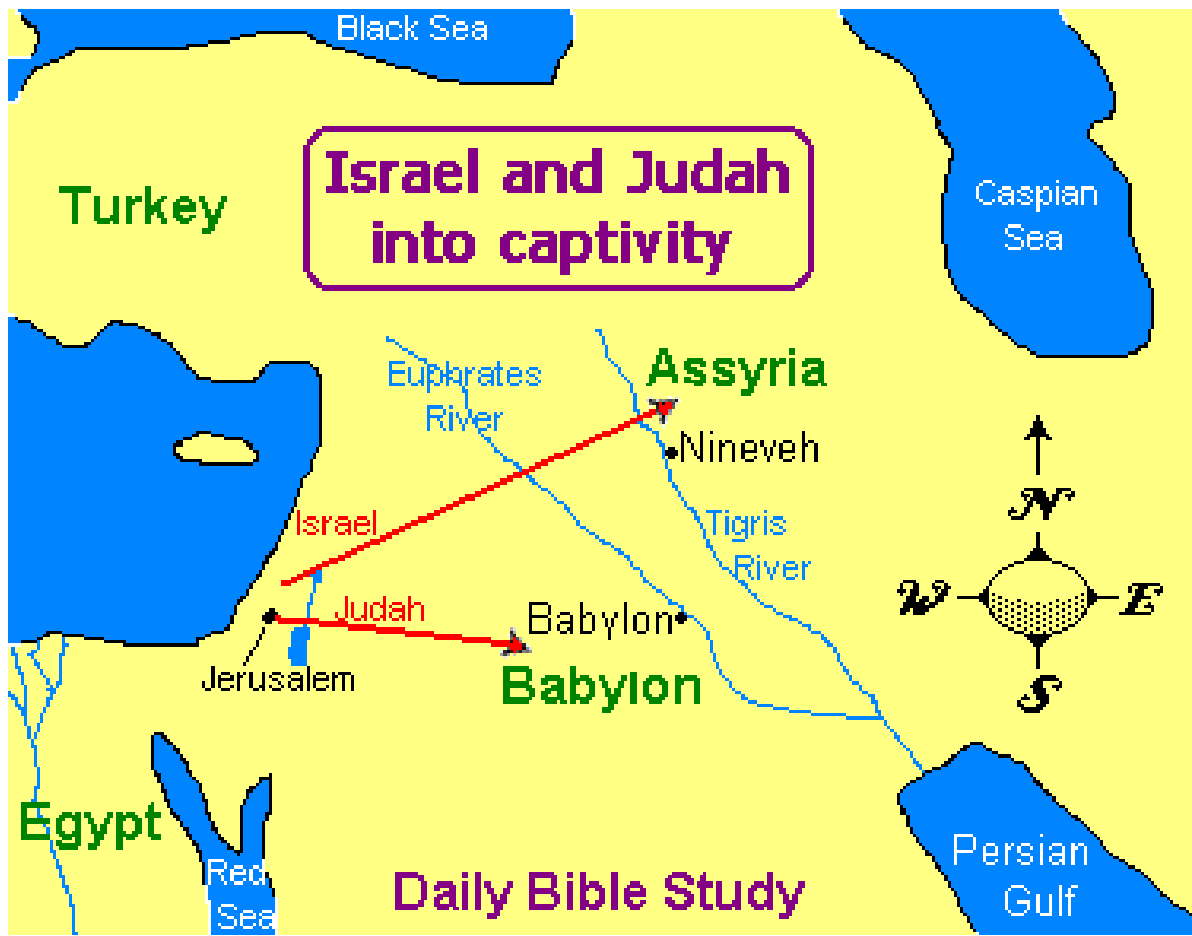
As soon as you cease to deal treacherously, others will deal treacherously with you.

The Divided Kingdom





Israel and Judah into captivity



Daily Bible Study

United States is morally in freefall



Church



2. Panic and become desperate.



1. Need to increase our numbers to impact our nation.

1. Hold its ground by drawing its stability from God's Word. No need to panic, no need to compromise, just continue believing and doing what God in His Word has called you to do.



- In Judges 7 & 8 God told Gideon to take his army of 32,000, who were to face a Midianite army of 120,000 to reduce it first to 10,000 and then down to 300. And they defeated the Midianites.
- In 1 Sam 14 Jonathan and his armour-bearer killed 20 heavily armed Phillistines.
- Young David killed giant Goliath.
- God made that same shepherd boy into Israel's greatest King.
- God chose two weak and aged childless senior adults to be the source from whom an entire nation would spring.
- God used a boy sold into slavery by his jealous brothers to rule the nation of Egypt and eventually provide a food source for God's people.
- God used the tiny tear of a baby to move the heart of Pharaoh's daughter so that Israel could have a great leader to deliver them from bondage.
- God gave the world a tiny baby in a manger to bring salvation to mankind.
- A little boy had 5 small loaves of bread and two fish and he gave them to Jesus and He used them to feed 5,000 men, women, and children (John 6:5-14).
- Jesus only chose 12 disciples.

Zech 4:6

6 Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.

Matt 17:20

20 if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

1 Cor 1:27-30

27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong,

28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are,

29 so that no man may boast before God.

God + 1 = Majority

United States is morally in freefall

➡ **Church**



1. Hold its ground by drawing its stability from God's Word. No panic, no compromise, just continue believing and doing what God in His Word has called you to do.



2. Panic and become desperate.



- 1. Need to increase our numbers to impact our nation.
We lose our purity.
- 2. Need to be more relevant.



2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good

2 Tim 4:1-5

4 I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

Amusing Ourselves to Death is a look at what happens when politics, journalism, education, and religion become subject to the demands of entertainment.

United States is morally in freefall

➔ **Church**

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1. Hold its ground by drawing its stability from God's Word. No panic, no compromise, just continue believing and doing what God in His Word has called you to do.

➔

2. Panic and become desperate.

3. Continue to decline along with the nation.

- ➔
1. Need to increase our numbers to impact our nation.
We lose our purity.
 2. Need to be more relevant.
We lose our identity.
 3. Need to join forces and become moralists.
We lose the gospel.
 4. Re-interpret Scripture to fit secular trends and beliefs.
We lose the truth.

➔

We need discernment.

COMPROMISE

Eph 4:14

14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;



Num 25:1-5

- 1 While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab.
- 2 For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.
- 3 So Israel joined themselves to Baal of Peor, and the Lord was angry against Israel.
- 4 The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel."
- 5 So Moses said to the judges of Israel, "Each of you slay his men who have joined themselves to Baal of Peor."

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said,

"I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM;
AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord.

"AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN;

And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you,
And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,"
Says the Lord Almighty.

“There has never been a society in the history of mankind whose moral values have deteriorated so dramatically, in such a short period of time, as those of Americans in the last 50 years. And so far it shows no sign of stopping. The statistics are eye-opening, and they serve to warn us that something is terribly wrong with our brand of Christianity. They reveal how poorly the church has communicated the true gospel to mainstream America, and thus the reason for so much deception in our culture.”

- Bert M. Farias

“The Great Deception in the American Church”

“Oh, the difference in worship when the wrath of God is known and felt! Gone is jesting and silliness and slapstick and pettiness and trifling and joking and clowning and levity.”

- *John Piper*

Before his death in 2007 D. James Kennedy, Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, said:

“In 20 years you will not recognize the Church.”