NINEVEH FLOODS

Nahum 2:4-6

Diodorus Siculus, a Greek historian, tells us that Nineveh had fifteen hundred towers, each of which was two hundred feet height. But at the time of the siege, the Tigris River rose up and flooded, and it took out an entire section of the wall of the city. The river did what the enemy could not do—it breached the walls of Nineveh. Then the enemy was able to come in and penetrate the city itself. They opened the canals used for irrigation and thus flooded the palace. This is the way in which the enemy was able to take the city. The breach in the wall was so great that the chariots of the enemy could get in, and what is described in verse 4 is nothing in the world but the chariot battle that took place at that time.

Nahum prophesies here that the Tigris River will be turned into the city. About two and one-half miles of the wall around Nineveh was right along the western bank of the Tigris River. At the time this campaign was carried on, the heavy rains in that area caused the Tigris River to reach flood stage. The floodwaters took out a section of the wall, and the city became like a pool of water. "The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved." Quite possibly the foundations of the palace were swept out and that the water absolutely brought the palace down. Archeology has discovered that about 1200 feet of the wall is missing on the side of the Tigris River.

In other words, the overflowing river made the breach that the enemy was attempting to make themselves. It would seem as though the Lord cooperated in the destruction of the city. The floodgates were opened, and even the palace was brought down by the flooding. We are told that the palace was completely inundated with water.