

# Nahum 1:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, that no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile.

## Analysis

**And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee** (vetsivah aleyka YHWH, וְצִוָּה יְהוָה עֲלֶיךָ). The verb tsavah (צִוָּה, "command/decreed") indicates sovereign, irrevocable decision. God pronounces judicial sentence against Nineveh. This isn't negotiable—it's divine decree that will certainly be fulfilled. The direct address "concerning thee" personalizes judgment—this targets Nineveh specifically.

**That no more of thy name be sown** (lo-yizzare mishimkha od, לֹא-יִזְרַע מִשִּׁמְךָ עוֹד). Zara (זָרַע, "sow/plant") typically refers to planting seed, here used metaphorically for propagating one's name through descendants. God decrees Nineveh's name will be cut off—no dynasty, no descendants, no legacy. This was literally fulfilled: the Assyrian royal line ended when the last king perished in Nineveh's flames (612 BC). Unlike other conquered peoples who maintained ethnic identity, Assyrians were absorbed into other populations. Their distinctive language (Akkadian) died out. Even the city's location was forgotten for millennia.

**Out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image** (mibbeit eloheyka akhrit pesel umassekah, מִבֵּית אֱלֹהֶיךָ אַחְרִית פֶּסֶל וּמַסֵּכָה). Pesel (פֶּסֶל, "graven image") refers to carved idols; massekah (מַסֵּכָה, "molten image") to cast metal idols. God promises to destroy Nineveh's temples and idols. Archaeological evidence confirms this: Assyrian temples were burned and

destroyed in 612 BC. The false gods couldn't protect their worshippers. **I will make thy grave; for thou art vile** (asim qivrekha ki gallota, אָשִׁים קִיבְּרָךְ כִּי קָלוֹתָ). Qever (קִבְּרָה, "grave") indicates death and burial. Qalal (לָלַל, "be light/vile/insignificant") pronounces moral worthlessness. Despite Nineveh's former greatness, God declares them vile and worthy only of the grave.

## Historical Context

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Nineveh's temples were famous—dedicated to Ishtar, Nabu, and other Mesopotamian deities. Assyrian kings boasted of building magnificent shrines. Yet in 612 BC, all were destroyed. The Babylonian Chronicle and archaeological excavations confirm wholesale destruction of religious sites. The royal dynasty ended—no Assyrian king ever ruled again. The empire that terrorized nations for over two centuries vanished almost overnight. Within a few generations, even the location of Nineveh was forgotten. God's decree was fulfilled with startling precision and totality.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. What does the complete erasure of Nineveh's name teach about the futility of building legacy on violence and wickedness?
2. How does God's destruction of Nineveh's idols demonstrate the impotence of false gods and the supremacy of YHWH?
3. In what ways do people today attempt to 'sow their name' through achievements, wealth, or power—and how does this contrast with eternal legacy in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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וְצָוָה	עַל יָדְךָ	יְהוָה	לֹא	יִזְרַע	
<b>hath given a commandment</b>	H5921	<b>And the LORD</b>	H3808	<b>be sown</b>	
H6680		H3068		H2232	
מִשְׁמַחְךָ	עַד	מִבֵּית	אֱלֹהֶיךָ		
<b>concerning thee that no more of thy name</b>	H5750	<b>out of the house</b>	<b>of thy gods</b>		
H8034		H1004	H430		
אֶכְרֹת	פָּסֶל	וּמִסַּכָּה	אֲשֶׁר	קִבַּרְתָּ	כִּי
<b>will I cut off</b>	<b>the graven image</b>	<b>and the molten image</b>	<b>I will make</b>	<b>thy grave</b>	H3588
H3772	H6459	H4541	H7760	H6913	
קְלוֹתְךָ:					
<b>for thou art vile</b>					
H7043					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 109:13** (Parallel theme): Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

**Proverbs 10:7** (Parallel theme): The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

**Micah 5:13** (Parallel theme): Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.

**2 Kings 19:37** (Word): And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.