

# Nahum 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared.

## Analysis

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**He shall recount his worthies: they shall stumble in their walk**—the Assyrian king summons his addirim (אֲדִירִים, nobles/mighty ones), his elite warriors and commanders, but panic causes them to stumble (yikkashelu, יִקָּשְׁלוּ) as they rush to defend the walls. The verb kashal suggests stumbling from haste, fear, or exhaustion—not the confident march of a victorious army but the disoriented scramble of defeated troops.

**They shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared** (yemaharû lechomath vehukin hasokekh)—defenders rush (mahar, מָהַר) to the wall, and the sokekh (סֹכֶךְ, mantelet or protective shelter) is set up. The sokekh was a mobile shield or protective covering used in siege warfare. This frantic activity depicts Nineveh's desperate final defense: officers stumbling in confusion, soldiers rushing to positions, last-minute fortifications erected—all futile against God's decreed judgment. The imagery contrasts sharply with Assyria's usual role as the aggressor; now they're the panicked defenders.

## Historical Context

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Nahum prophesied between 663-612 BC. In 612 BC, a coalition of Babylonians, Medes, and Scythians besieged Nineveh. Historical sources (Babylonian Chronicle, Greek historians) describe the three-month siege ending in the city's catastrophic destruction. The Tigris River reportedly flooded, weakening the walls (fulfilling

Nahum 2:6). Nineveh's defenders, once the terror of the ancient world, found themselves in the unfamiliar role of desperate resistance. The city's fall was so complete that the Assyrian Empire effectively ceased to exist. Archaeological excavations reveal massive destruction layers confirming the violent conquest—palaces burned, walls breached, evidence of desperate last stands.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the image of Assyria's elite warriors stumbling in panic demonstrate the futility of military might apart from God?
2. What does Nineveh's frantic preparation—despite certain judgment—teach about human attempts to forestall divine justice?
3. How should the reversal of fortunes (oppressor becoming oppressed) shape Christian understanding of God's justice in history?

## Interlinear Text

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יִזְכֹּר	אֲדִיכָּ יוֹ	יִכָּשְׁלוּ וְ	בְּהִלְכֹתָם
He shall recount	his worthies	they shall stumble	in their walk
H2142	H117	H3782	H1979
יִמְהָרוּ	חֹמַתָּהּ	יִהְיוּ	הַסִּכָּהּ
they shall make haste	to the wall	shall be prepared	thereof and the defence
H4116	H2346	H3559	H5526

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 46:12** (Parallel theme): The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, and they are fallen both together.

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