

Nahum 2 - The Destruction of Nineveh

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II. Nineveh's doom described (Nahum 2:1-13)

- (1) The coming of Nineveh's enemies (2:1-2)
 - (A) Announcement of Nineveh's approaching enemies (2:1)

1 The one who scatters has come up against you. Keep watch over the fortress, watch the road; Bind up your waist, summon all your strength.

1 The one who scatters has come up against you. Man the fortress, watch the road; Strengthen your back, summon all *your* strength.

1 You are being attacked by advancing forces! Guard your rampart! Watch your roads! Prepare yourselves! Marshall your defenses!

1 He that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, watch the way, make thy loins strong, fortify thy power mightily.

- (B) Purpose of the coming of enemies: Israel's restoration (2:2)

2 For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though destroyers have laid waste to them And ruined their vines.

2 For the LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob Like the splendor of Israel, Even though devastators have devastated them And destroyed their vine branches.

2 For the LORD will restore the glory of Jacob, just as he will restore the glory of Israel, although plunderers have devastated them, vandalizing their vine branches.

2 For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

(2) The attack of Nineveh's enemies (2:3-10)

(A) The enemy army approaches (2:3-5)

3 The shields of his warriors are dyed red, The warriors are dressed in scarlet, The chariots are *fitted* with flashing steel When he is prepared *to march*, And the juniper spears are brandished.

3 The shields of his mighty men are *colored* red, The warriors are dressed in scarlet, The chariots are *enveloped* in flashing steel When he is prepared *to march*, And the cypress *spears* are brandished.

3 The shields deployed by Israel's elite forces are scarlet, their valiant men are clothed in crimson. When they are prepared, the polished armament on their chariots will shine, and lances will be brandished about ferociously.

3 The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men are in scarlet: the chariots shall be with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the fir trees shall be terribly shaken.

4 The chariots drive wildly in the streets, They rush around in the public squares; Their appearance is like torches, They drive back and forth like lightning flashes.

4 The chariots race madly in the streets, They rush wildly in the squares, Their appearance is like torches, They dash to and fro like lightning flashes.

4 Their chariots storm through the streets, jostling each other along broad avenues. They look like torches, as they dart around like lightning.

4 The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

5 He remembers his officers; They stumble in their advance, They hurry to her wall, And the mantelet is set up.

5 He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their march, They hurry to her wall, And the mantelet is set up.

5 He will remember to summon his finest troops. They will stumble on their way, hurrying over to Nineveh's wall. Their defensive shield is in place.

5 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.

(B) The enemy army enters the city (2:6-7)

6 The gates of the rivers are opened And the palace sways back and forth.

6 The gates of the rivers are opened And the palace is dissolved.

6 The river gates will be opened, and the palace will collapse.

6 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved.

7 It is set: She is stripped, she is led away, And her slave women are sobbing like the sound of doves, Beating their breasts.

7 It is fixed: She is stripped, she is carried away, And her handmaids are moaning like the sound of doves, Beating on their breasts.

7 It has been determined: The woman is unveiled and sent away, her servant girls mourn. Beating their breasts, they whimper like doves.

7 And Huzzab shall be led away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead her as with the voice of doves, tabering upon their breasts.

(C) The enemy army desolates the city (2:8-10)

8 Though Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days, Yet they are fleeing; "Stop, stop," But no one turns back.

8 Though Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days, Now they are fleeing; "Stop, stop," But no one turns back.

8 Nineveh is a reservoir whose water is draining away. "Wait! Wait!" they cry, yet not even one person looks back.

8 But Nineveh is of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, shall they cry; but none shall look back.

9 Plunder the silver, Plunder the gold! For there is no end to the treasure— Wealth from every *kind of* desirable object.

9 Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! For there is no limit to the treasure— Wealth from every kind of desirable object.

9 Take the silver! Take the gold! There is no end to the treasure— fabulous riches of every imagination.

9 Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for there is none end of the store and glory out of all the pleasant furniture

10 She is emptied! Yes, she is desolate and waste! Hearts are melting and knees wobbling! Also trembling is in the entire body, And all their faces have become pale!

10 She is emptied! Yes, she is desolate and waste! Hearts are melting and knees knocking! Also anguish is in the whole body And all their faces are grown pale!

10 Nineveh is devastated, deserted, and desolate. Her heart melts, her knees knock. Every stomach is upset, every face grows pale.

10 She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain is in all loins, and the faces of them all gather blackness.

(3) Nineveh to be destroyed as a lion's den is destroyed (2:11-13)

(A) Nineveh compared to a lion's den (2:11)

11 Where is the den of the lions And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion, lioness, *and* lion's cub went With nothing to disturb *them*?

11 Where is the den of the lions And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion, lioness and lion's cub prowled, With nothing to disturb *them*?

11 Where is this lion's den? Where is the place where the young lions fed, where the lion and its mate walked with their young, the place where they feared nothing?

11 Where is the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions, where the lion, even the old lion, walked, and the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid?

(B) Nineveh's young lions to be destroyed (2:12-13)

12 The lion tore enough for his cubs, Killed *enough prey* for his lionesses, And filled his lairs with prey And his dens with torn flesh.

12 The lion tore enough for his cubs, Killed *enough* for his lionesses, And filled his lairs with prey And his dens with torn flesh.

12 This lion renders its prey to pieces to feed its whelps, and strangles enough prey for its mate, filling its lairs with prey and its dens with rendered flesh.

12 The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ravin.

13 "Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of armies. "I will burn up her chariots in smoke, and a sword will devour your young lions; I will eliminate your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard."

13 "Behold, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts. "I will burn up her chariots in smoke, a sword will devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the land, and no longer will the voice of your messengers be heard."

13 "I am against you," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, "and I will send your chariots up in smoke. A sword will devour your young lions, I will eliminate your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers will no longer be heard."

13 Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard