

worthlessness.ⁿ Accord with your worthlessness Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

2:1 Behold on the hills The footsteps of a herald Announcing good fortune! “Celebrate your festivals, O Judah, Fulfill your vows. Never again shall scoundrels invade you, They have totally vanished.”

2:2 ^aThis verse would read well after v. 3. A shatterer has come up against you. ^byou I.e., Nineveh; cf. 1.1. Put up the guard posts, Watch the road; Steady your loins, Brace all your strength!

2:3 For GOD has restored the Pride ^cPride Emendation yields “vine.” of Jacob ^dJacob... Israel Respectively, the northern kingdom (cf. Amos 6.8; 8.7) and the southern kingdom. The latter is regarded as the remnant of Israel after the fall of the northern kingdom (cf. Mic. 1.13–15). As well as the Pride ^ePride See first note at this verse. of Israel, Though marauders have laid them waste And ravaged their branches.

2:4 His ^fHis I.e., the shatterer in v. 2. warriors’ shields are painted red, And the soldiers are clothed in crimson; The chariots are like flaming torches, ^gtorches Understanding peladoth as equivalent to lappidoth. On the day they are made ready. The [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned, ^hThe [arrows of] cypress wood are poisoned Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “The cavalry charge”; cf. 3.3.

2:5 The chariots dash about frenzied in the fields, They rush through the meadows. They appear like torches, They race like streaks of lightning.

2:6 ⁱMeaning of verse uncertain. He commands his burly men; They stumble as they advance, They hasten up to her wall, Where wheeled shelters ^jwheeled shelters To protect the crews that swung the battering rams. are set up.

2:7 The floodgates are opened, And the palace is deluged. ^kThe floodgates are opened, / And the palace is deluged I.e., the walls are breached and the palace is overrun.

2:8 And Huzzab is exiled and carried away, ^lAnd Huzzab is exiled and carried away Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “And its mistress is led out and exiled.” While her handmaidens escort ^m[her] ⁿescort [her] Emendation yields “moan.” As with the voices of doves, Beating their breasts.

2:9 Nineveh has been like a ^o[placid] pool of water From earliest times; ^pFrom earliest times Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Now they flee. “Stop! Stop!”—But none can turn them back.

2:10 “Plunder silver! Plunder gold!” There is no limit to the treasure; It is a hoard of all precious objects.

2:11 Desolation, devastation, and destruction! Spirits sink, Knees buckle, All loins tremble, All faces turn ashen. ^qturn ashen Meaning of Heb. uncertain; cf. note at Joel 2.6.

2:12 What has become of that lions’ den, That pasture ^rpasture Emendation yields “cave.” of great beasts, Where lion and lion’s breed walked, And lion’s cub—with none to disturb them?

2:13 [Where is] the lion that tore victims for its cubs And strangled for the lionesses, And filled its lairs with prey And its dens with mangled flesh?

2:14 I am going to deal with you—declares GOD of Hosts: I will burn down her chariots in smoke, ^sher chariots in smoke Emendation yields “your thicket in fire.” And the sword shall devour your great beasts; I will stamp out your

killings from the earth,And the sound of your messengersmessengers Emendation yields “devouring.” Shall be heard no more.

3:1 Ah, city of crime,Utterly treacherous,Full of violence,Where killing never stops!

3:2 Crack of whipAnd rattle of wheel,Galloping steedAnd bounding chariot!

3:3 Charging cavalry,Flashing swords,And glittering spears!Hosts of slainAnd heaps of corpses,Dead bodies without number—They stumble over bodies.

3:4 Because of the countless whoredoms of the whore,The winsome mistress of sorcery,Who ensnaredaensnared Meaning of Heb. uncertain. nations with her whoredomsAnd peoples with her sorcery,

3:5 I am going to deal with you—declares GOD of Hosts.I will lift up your skirts over your faceAnd display your nakedness to the nationsAnd your shame to kingdoms.

3:6 I will throw loathsome things over youAnd disfigure youAnd make a spectacle of you.

3:7 All who see you will recoil from youAnd will say,“Nineveh has been ravaged!”Who will console her?Where shall I look forAnyone to comfort you?

3:8 Were you any better than No-amon,bNo-amon Amon was the tutelary deity of No (Thebes; cf. Jer. 46.25), which the Assyrians had sacked in 663 BCE. Which sat by the Nile,Surrounded by water—Its rampart a river,criver Heb. “sea.” Its wall consisting of sea?

3:9 Populous CushAnd teeming Egypt,Put and the Libyans—They were herdher Heb. “your.” helpers.

3:10 Yet even she was exiled,She went into captivity.Her babes, too, were dashed in piecesAt every street corner.Lots were cast for her nobles,And all her dignitaries were bound in chains.

3:11 You too shall be drunkAnd utterly overcome;eovercome Meaning of Heb. uncertain. You too shall seekA refuge from the enemy.

3:12 All your forts are fig treesWithfWith Emendation yields “Your troops are”; cf. next verse. ripe fruit;If shaken they will fallInto the mouths of devourers.

3:13 Truly, the troops within you are women;The gates of your land have opened themselvesTo your enemies;Fire has consumed your gate bars.

3:14 Draw water for the siege,Strengthen your forts;Tread the clay,Trample the mud,Grasp the brick mold!

3:15 There fire will devour you,The sword will put an end to you;It will devour you like the grub.Multiply like grubs,Multiply like locusts!gMultiply like grubs, Multiply like locusts Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

3:16 You had more tradersThan the sky has stars—The grubs cast their skins and fly away.

3:17 Your guards were like locusts,Your marshals like piles of hoppersThat settle on the stone fencesOn a chilly day;When the sun comes out, they fly away,And where they are nobody knows.

3:18 Your shepherds are slumbering,O king of Assyria;Your sheepmasters are lying inert;hlying inert Lit. “dwelling”; emendation yields “asleep.”

Your people are scatterediscattered Meaning of Heb. uncertain. over the hills,And there is none to gather them.

3:19 There is no healingjhealing Heb. kehah, a variant of gehah; see Prov.

17.22. for your injury; Your wound is grievous. All who hear the news about

youClap their hands over you. For who has not sufferedFrom your constant malice?

— Nahum — (Sefaria merged English versions) (Public Domain or CC-BY (per Sefaria source data))