

nothing, good or bad.”

1:13 Their wealth shall be plundered
And their homes laid waste.
They shall build houses and not dwell in them,
Plant vineyards and not drink their wine.

1:14 The great day of GOD is approaching,
Approaching most swiftly.
Hark, the day of GOD!
It is bitter:
There a warrior shrieks!
Hark, the day of GOD! / It is bitter: / There a warrior shrieks!
Emendation yields: “The day of GOD is faster than a runner, / Fleeter than a warrior”; cf. Ps. 19.6.

1:15 That day shall be a day of wrath,
A day of trouble and distress,
A day of calamity and desolation,
A day of darkness and deep gloom,
A day of densest clouds,

1:16 A day of horn blasts and alarms—
Against the fortified towns
And the lofty corner towers.

1:17 I will bring distress on the people,
And they shall walk like the blind,
Because they sinned against GOD;
Their blood shall be spilled like dust,
And their fatfat Or “marrow”; meaning of Heb. uncertain. like dung.

1:18 Moreover, their silver and gold
Shall not avail to save them.
On the day of GOD’s wrath,
In the fire of such passion,
The whole land shall be consumed;
For [God] will make a terrible end
Of all who dwell in the land.

2:1 Gather together, gather,
O nation without shame,

2:2 Before the day the decree is born—
The day flies by like chaff
O nation ... chaff
Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields: “O straw [Aramaic gel] not gathered in, / Before you are driven like flying chaff”; cf. Ps.

35.5.—Before GOD’s fierce anger
Overtakes you,
Before the day GOD’s anger
Overtakes you.

2:3 Seek GOD,
All you humble of the land
Who have fulfilled God’s law;
Seek righteousness,
Seek humility.
Perhaps you will find shelter
On the day of GOD’s anger.

2:4 Indeed, Gaza shall be deserted
And Ashkelon desolate;
Ashdod’s people shall be expelled
in broad daylight,
And Ekron shall be uprooted.

2:5 Ah, nation of Cherethites
Who inhabit the seacoast!
There is a word of GOD
against you,
O Canaan,
Canaan Or “Phoenicia,” of which Philistia is regarded
as an extension southward. land of the Philistines:
I will lay you waste
Without inhabitants.

2:6 The seacoast
Chereth
Chereth Meaning of Heb. uncertain. shall become
An abode for shepherds and folds for flocks,

2:7 And shall be a portion for the remnant of the House of Judah;
On these [pastures] they shall graze [their flocks],
They shall lie down
lie down Change of vocalization yields “rest [them]”; cf. Song 1.7. at eventide
In the houses of Ashkelon.
For the ETERNAL their God will take note of them
And restore their fortunes.

2:8 I have heard the insults of Moab
And the jeers of the Ammonites,
Who have insulted My people
And gloated over their country.

2:9 Assuredly, as I live—declares GOD of Hosts, the God of Israel—
Moab shall become like Sodom
And the Ammonites like Gomorrah:
Clump
Clumps Meaning of Heb. uncertain. of weeds and patches
patches Meaning of Heb. uncertain. of salt,
And desolation evermore.
The remnant of My people shall plunder them,
The remainder of My nation shall possess them.

2:10 That is what they'll get for their haughtiness,
For insulting and jeering
At the people of GOD of Hosts.

2:11 GOD will appear terrible against them,
Causing all the gods on earth to shrivel;
gshrivel Meaning of Heb. uncertain. And all the coastlands of the nations
Shall bow in homage—Everyone in their own home.

2:12 You Cushites too—They shall be slain by My sword.

2:13 [God] will reach out against the north
And destroy Assyria—Making Nineveh a desolation,
Arid as the desert.

2:14 In it flocks shall lie down,
Every species of beast, While jackdaws and owls roost on its capitals,
The great owl hoots in the window, And the raven [croaks] on the threshold.
For its cedarwork is laid bare.
hspecies of beast ... laid bare
Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

2:15 Is this the exultant city
That dwelt secure, That thought in her heart, “I am, and there is none but me”?
Alas, she is become a waste, A lair of wild beasts!
Everyone who passes by her
Hisses and makes a hand gesture.
iHisses and makes a hand gesture
To ward off a like fate from themselves; cf. Jer. 18.16 and note.

3:1 Ah, sullied, polluted,
Overbearing
aOverbearing Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Emendation yields “Whore”; cf. Isa. 1.21. city!

3:2 She heeds no call,
Has learned no lesson; She has not trusted in GOD,
Has not drawn near to her God.

3:3 The officials within her
Are roaring lions; Her judges are wolves of the steppe,
They leave no bone until morning.
bof the steppe, / They leave no bone until morning
Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

3:4 Her prophets are reckless,
Totally faithless; Her priests profane what is holy,
They give perverse rulings.

3:5 But GOD in her midst is righteous,
And does no wrong; [God] issues judgment every morning,
As unfailing as the light. The wrongdoer knows no shame!

3:6 I wiped out nations: Their corner towers are desolate; I turned their thoroughfares into ruins,
With none passing by; Their towns lie waste with nobody around,
Without inhabitants.

3:7 And I thought that she
she Heb. “you.” would fear Me, Would learn a lesson,
And that the punishment I brought on them
them Heb. “her.” Would not be lost on her.
elost on her Lit. “cut off [from] her vision.” Instead, all the more eagerly
They have practiced corruption in all their deeds.

3:8 But wait for Me—says GOD—For the day when I arise as an accuser;
faccuser Understanding ‘ad as equivalent to ‘ed, with Septuagint and Syriac. When I decide to gather nations,
To bring kingdoms together, To pour out My indignation on them,
All My blazing anger. Indeed, by the fire of My passion
All the earth shall be consumed.

3:9 For then I will make the peoples pure of speech,
gI will make the peoples pure of speech
Thus reversing the primeval confounding of speech in Babel; cf. Abravanel and Gen. 11.9. So that they all invoke GOD by name
And render service with one accord.
haccord Lit. “back,” i.e., like working animals.

3:10 From beyond the rivers of Cush, My suppliants
iMy suppliants Meaning of Heb. uncertain. Shall bring offerings to Me in Fair Puzai.
jPuzai Emendation yields “Zion.” For the thought, cf. Isa. 18.1, 7.

3:11 In that day, You will no longer be shamed for all the deeds
By which you have defied Me. For then I will remove
The proud and exultant within you, And you will be haughty no more
On My sacred mount. k On My sacred mount I.e., in My holy
land; cf. Isa. 11.9; 57.13; 65.25.

3:12 But I will leave within you A poor, humble folk,
And they shall find refuge In the name of GOD.

3:13 The remnant of Israel Shall do no wrong
And speak no falsehood; A deceitful tongue
Shall not be in their mouths. Only such as these shall graze and lie
down, With none to trouble them.

3:14 Shout for joy, Fair Zion, Cry aloud, O Israel!
Rejoice and be glad with all your heart,
Fair Jerusalem!

3:15 GOD has annulled the judgment against you,
And swept away your foes. Israel's Sovereign GOD is within you;
You need fear misfortune no more.

3:16 In that day, This shall be said to Jerusalem:
Have no fear, O Zion; Let not your hands droop!

3:17 Your God the ETERNAL One is in your midst—
A warrior who brings triumph—Who will rejoice over you and be glad,
Who will shout over you with jubilation
Who will lovingly soothe

3:18 Those long disconsolate. l lovingly ... disconsolate
Meaning of Heb. uncertain. I will take away from you the woe
Over which you endured mockery. m the woe ... mockery
Meaning of Heb. uncertain.

3:19 At that time I will make [an end] Of all who afflicted you.
And I will rescue the lame [sheep] And gather the strayed;
And I will exchange their disgrace For fame and renown in all the earth.

3:20 At that time I will gather you, And at [that] time I will bring you
[home]; For I will make you renowned and famous
Among all the peoples on earth, When I restore your fortunes
Before theirn their Heb. "your." very eyes—said GOD.