

Judgment Oracle Chiasm

Nahum 1:9—3:19

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[A] Death of the King of Assyria → Celebration of the Oppressed

1:9-15

- ⁹ What do you plot against the LORD?
He will make a complete end;
trouble will not rise up a second time.
- ¹⁰ For they are like entangled thorns,
like drunkards as they drink;
they are consumed like stubble fully dried.
- ¹¹ From you came one
who plotted evil against the LORD,
a worthless counselor.
- ¹² Thus says the LORD,
“Though they are at full strength and many,
they will be cut down and pass away.
Though I have afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.
- ¹³ And now I will break his yoke from off you
and will burst your bonds apart.”
- ¹⁴ The LORD has given commandment about you:
“No more shall your name be perpetuated;
from the house of your gods I will cut off
the carved image and the metal image.
I will make your grave, for you are vile.”
- ¹⁵ Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him
who brings good news,
who publishes peace!
Keep your feasts, O Judah;
fulfill your vows,
for never again shall the worthless pass through you;
he is utterly cut off.

3:18-19

- ¹⁸ Your shepherds are asleep,
O king of Assyria;
your nobles slumber.
Your people are scattered on the mountains
with none to gather them.
- ¹⁹ There is no easing your hurt;
your wound is grievous.
All who hear the news about you
clap their hands over you.
For upon whom has not come
your unceasing evil?

[B] Call to Alarm

2:1-10

- ¹ The scatterer has come up against you.
 Man the ramparts;
 watch the road;
 dress for battle;
 collect all your strength.
- ² For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob
 as the majesty of Israel,
 for plunderers have plundered them
 and ruined their branches.
- ³ The shield of his mighty men is red;
 his soldiers are clothed in scarlet.
 The chariots come with flashing metal
 on the day he musters them;
 the cypress spears are brandished.
- ⁴ The chariots race madly through the streets;
 they rush to and fro through the squares;
 they gleam like torches;
 they dart like lightning.
- ⁵ He remembers his officers;
 they stumble as they go,
 they hasten to the wall;
 the siege tower is set up.

- ⁶ The river gates are opened;
 the palace melts away;
- ⁷ its mistress is stripped; she is carried off,
 her slave girls lamenting,
 moaning like doves
 and beating their breasts.
- ⁸ Nineveh is like a pool
 whose waters run away.
 “Halt! Halt!” they cry,
 but none turns back.
- ⁹ Plunder the silver,
 plunder the gold!
 There is no end of the treasure
 or of the wealth of all precious things.
- ¹⁰ Desolate! Desolation and ruin!
 Hearts melt and knees tremble;
 anguish is in all loins;
 all faces grow pale!

3:14-17

- ¹⁴ Draw water for the siege;
 strengthen your forts;
 go into the clay;
 tread the mortar;
 take hold of the brick mold!
- ¹⁵ There will the fire devour you;
 the sword will cut you off.
 It will devour you like the locust.
 Multiply yourselves like the locust;
 multiply like the grasshopper!
- ¹⁶ You increased your merchants
 more than the stars of the heavens.
 The locust spreads its wings and flies away.
- ¹⁷ Your princes are like grasshoppers,
 your scribes like clouds of locusts
 settling on the fences
 in a day of cold—
 when the sun rises, they fly away;
 no one knows where they are.

[C] Taunt Question

2:11-12

- 11 Where is the lions' den,
the feeding place of the young lions,
where the lion and lioness went,
where his cubs were, with none to disturb ?
- 12 The lion tore enough for his cubs
and strangled prey for his lionesses;
he filled his caves with prey
and his dens with torn flesh.

3:8-13

- 8 Are you better than Thebes
that sat by the Nile,
with water around her,
her rampart a sea,
and water her wall ?
- 9 Cush was her strength;
Egypt too, and that without limit;
Put and the Libyans were her helpers.
- 10 Yet she became an exile;
she went into captivity;
her infants were dashed in pieces
at the head of every street;
for her honored men lots were cast,
and all her great men were bound in chains.
- 11 You also will be drunken;
you will go into hiding;
you will seek a refuge from the enemy.
- 12 All your fortresses are like fig trees
with first-ripe figs—
if shaken they fall
into the mouth of the eater.
- 13 Behold, your troops
are women in your midst.
The gates of your land
are wide open to your enemies;
fire has devoured your bars.

[D] Yahweh's Opposition

2:13

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

3:5-7

⁵ Behold, I am against you,
declares the LORD of hosts,
and will lift up your skirts over your face;
and I will make nations look at your nakedness
and kingdoms at your shame.

⁶ I will throw filth at you
and treat you with contempt
and make you a spectacle.

⁷ And all who look at you will shrink from you and say,
“Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?”
Where shall I seek comforters for you?

[E] Woe to Nineveh

3:1-4

¹ Woe to the bloody city,
all full of lies and plunder—
no end to the prey!

² The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel,
galloping horse and bounding chariot!

³ Horsemen charging,
flashing sword and glittering spear,
hosts of slain,
heaps of corpses,
dead bodies without end—
they stumble over the bodies!

⁴ And all for the countless whorings of the prostitute,
graceful and of deadly charms,
who betrays nations with her whorings,
and peoples with her charms.