

you:
 “Your dynasty will come to an end.
 I will destroy the idols and images in the
 temples of your gods.
 I will desecrate your grave – because you
 are accursed!”

Proclamation of the Deliverance of Judah

1:15 (2:1)^a Look! A herald is running on the
 mountains!
 A messenger is proclaiming deliverance:^b
 “Celebrate your sacred festivals, O Judah!
 Fulfill your sacred vows to praise God!
 For never again will the wicked Assyrians
 invade you,
 they have been completely destroyed.”^c

Proclamation of the Destruction of Nineveh

2 (2:2) The watchmen of Nineveh shout:
 “An enemy who will scatter you is
 marching out to attack you!”
 “Guard the rampart!
 Watch the road!
 Prepare yourselves for battle!^d
 Muster your mighty strength!”

2:2 For the LORD will restore the majesty
 of Jacob,
 as well as the majesty of Israel,
 though their enemies have plundered
 them
 and have destroyed their fields.

Prophetic Vision of the Fall of Nineveh

2:3 The shields of his warriors are dyed red;^e
 the mighty soldiers are dressed in scarlet
 garments.
 The metal fittings of the chariots shine
 like fire on the day of battle;
 the soldiers brandish their spears.

2:4 The chariots race madly through the

streets,
 they rush back and forth in the broad
 plazas;
 they look like lightning bolts,^f
 they dash here and there like flashes of
 lightning.

2:5 The commander orders his officers;
 they stumble as they advance;
 they rush to the city wall
 and they set up the covered siege tower.^g

2:6 The sluice gates are opened;^h
 the royal palace is deluged and dissolves.
 2:7 Nineveh is taken into exile and is led
 away;
 her slave girls moan like doves while they
 beat their breasts.

2:8 Nineveh was like a pool of waterⁱ
 throughout her days,
 but now her people are running away;
 she cries out: “Stop! Stop!” –
 but no one turns back.

2:9 Her conquerors cry out:
 “Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!”
 There is no end to the treasure;
 riches of every kind of precious thing.

2:10 Destruction, devastation, and desola-
 tion!
 Their hearts faint,
 their knees tremble,
 each stomach churns, each face turns
 pale!

Taunt against the Once-Mighty Lion

2:11 Where now is the den of the lions,
 the feeding place of the young lions,
 where the lion, lioness, and lion cub once
 prowled
 and no one disturbed them?

1:15 ^a From 1:15 to 2:13 the verse numbers in the English Bible differ from the verse numbers in the Hebrew text, with 1:15 ET = 2:1 HT, etc. ^b Heb a messenger of peace ^c Heb he is completely cut off 2:1 ^d Heb Make strong your loins 2:3 ^e The Hebrew term *red* could refer to the effects of red dye or bloodstains, but here it appears to be something done prior to the battle, thus *shields...dyed red* 2:4 ^f The Hebrew term means *torch* or *flame*, but the parallel with *flashes of lightning* suggests *lightning bolts* in this context 2:5 ^g Or *mantelet* (a military technical term for a large moveable shelter used to protect soldiers attacking a fortified city) 2:6 ^h Nineveh used dams and *sluice gates* to control the Tebiltu and Khoser Rivers which flowed through the city 2:8 ⁱ Nineveh was famous for its artificial pools