An oracle about Nineveh.
The book of the vision of Nahum from Elkosh.

The LORD is a jealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and full of wrath.
The LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries,
and he reserves his rage for his enemies.

The LORD is slow to anger,
and great in power,
and will by no means acquit the guilty.
The LORD has his way in the whirlwind and storm,
and the clouds are the dust beneath his feet.

He rebukes the sea and makes it dry;
he dries up all the rivers.
Bashan and Carmel wither;
even the blossom of Lebanon shrivels.

The mountains quake before him,
and the hills rock;
the earth shakes at his presence,
the world and all who live there.

Who can stand before his rage?
Who can survive his fierce anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are smashed into pieces by him.

The LORD is good,
a stronghold in the day of trouble;
he knows those who take refuge in him.

But with an overflowing flood
he will make a total end of his adversaries,
and will pursue his enemies into darkness.

What will you devise against the LORD?
He will make a total end.
Distress will not rise up the second time.

For they are entangled like thorns,
like drunkards inebriated with their drink;
they are totally consumed like dry stubble.

From you one has gone out,
one who plots evil against the LORD,
one who counsels wickedness.
12 This is what the LORD says:
   "Though they are at full strength,
   and likewise many,
   even so they will be cut down,
   and will pass away.
   Though I have afflicted you,
   I will afflict you no more.
13 Now I will break his yoke from off you,
   and will tear your shackles apart."

14 The LORD has given a command about you;
   "Your name will no longer be perpetuated.
   Out of the house of your gods I will destroy
   the carved image and the cast images.
   I will dig your grave,
   for you are vile."

15 Look, on the mountains,
   the feet of him who brings good news,
   who proclaims peace!
   Celebrate your feasts, O Judah,
   fulfill your vows.
   For the wicked will no longer invade you;
   he is completely cut off.
DASV: Nahum 2

1 One scattering to pieces is coming against you, Nineveh.
   Guard the fortress.
   Watch the road.
   Prepare for battle.
   Gather your strength.

2 For the LORD will restore the majesty of Jacob,
   according to the original majesty of Israel;
   for plunderers have plundered them,
   and destroyed their branches.

3 The shield of his mighty men are red,
   the valiant are clothed in scarlet,
   the chariots flash with metal on the day they are prepared,
   and their spears are brandished.

4 Chariots race through the streets;
   they rush to and fro through the squares.
   They appear like flaming torches,
   they bolt around like lightning.

5 He calls for his officers.
   They stumble in their charge.
   They rush to its wall,
   and the siege tower is set up.

6 The river gates are opened,
   and the palace melts away.

7 It is decreed that she will be exiled, carried away;
   her slave girls moan like doves
   as they beat their breasts.

8 But Nineveh is like a pool of water draining away,
   "Stop, stop," they cry,
   but no one turns back.

9 Plunder the silver,
   plunder the gold.
   There is no end of the treasure,
   wealth of every kind.

10 She is wasted, emptied, and devastated;
   hearts melt and knees shake,
   shaken to the core,
   with all the faces turning pale.

11 Where is the den of the lions,
   and the feeding place of the young lions,
   where the lion and the lioness walk,
even the lion's cub,
and no one makes them afraid?

12 The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs,
    and strangled prey for his lionesses,
    and filled his caves with prey,
    and his dens with torn flesh.

13 "I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts,
    "I will burn her chariots in the smoke,
    and the sword will devour your young lions.
    I will cut off your prey from the earth,
    and the voice of your messengers will be heard no more."
DASV: Nahum 3

1 Woe to the bloody city!
   It is all full of lies and plunder;
   the victims never end.

2 The crack of the whip,
   and the chariot wheels rumble,
   and horses gallop,
   and the chariots lurch forward.

3 The horseman charge
   with flashing sword and glittering spear.
   Many are dead,
   there are countless corpses.
   They stumble over the bodies.

4 because of the multiplicity of her prostitution
   a seductive mistress of sorcery,
   who sells nations by her harlotry,
   and families through her witchcrafts.

5 "Look, I am against you," declares the LORD of hosts,
   "I will lift your skirts over your face;
   I will expose your nakedness to the nations,
   and to the kingdoms your shame.

6 I will hurl filth at you,
   and treat you with utter disdain,
   and make you a public spectacle."

7 Then all who look at you will shrink back from you, and say,
   "Nineveh is devastated.
   Who will grieve for her?
   Where can I find comforters for you?

8 Are you any better than Thebes,
   that was situated on the Nile River,
   the waters surrounded her;
   her rampart was the sea,
   and the water was her wall?

9 Ethiopia and Egypt were her limitless strength;
   Put and Lubim were her allies.

10 Yet she went into exile;
   she was taken into captivity.
   Her infants were dashed in pieces at the head of every street;
   they cast lots for her nobility,
   and all her great men were shackled with chains.
11 You also will get drunk;  
you will go into hiding;  
you too will seek refuge from the enemy.

12 All your fortresses will be like fig trees with first-ripe figs;  
if they are shaken, they will fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Look, your warriors will be like women in the your midst;  
the gates of your land will be wide open to your enemies;  
the fire will devour your gates.

14 Draw water for the siege;  
strengthen your fortresses;  
go into the clay,  
and tread the mortar;  
take hold of the brick mold.

15 There will the fire devour you;  
the sword will cut you down.  
It will devour you like the locusts.  
Multiply yourself like the locusts;  
multiply yourself like the grasshopper.

16 You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven;  
like locusts they strip the vegetation and then fly away.

17 Your courtiers are like locusts,  
and your officials like swarms of locusts,  
settling on the walls on a cold day,  
but when the sun rises they flee away,  
and no one knows where they have gone.

18 Your shepherds have fallen asleep, O king of Assyria;  
your nobles are lying down;  
your people are scattered on the mountains,  
and there is no one to regather them.

19 Your wound is incurable,  
your injury is fatal.  
All who hear the report about you  
joyfully clap their hands at your demise.  
For who has not escaped your endless cruelty?