

NAHUM

1 THE burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. / [2] The LORD is a jealous and avenging God, / The LORD avengeth and is full of wrath; / The LORD taketh vengeance on His adversaries, / And He reserveth wrath for His enemies. / [3] The LORD is long-suffering, and great in power, / And will by no means clear the guilty; / The LORD, in the whirlwind and in the storm is His way, / And the clouds are the dust of His feet. / [4] He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, / And drieth up all the rivers; / Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, / And the flower of Lebanon languisheth. / [5] The mountains quake at Him, / And the hills melt; / And the earth is upheaved at His presence, / Yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. / [6] Who can stand before His indignation? / And who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? / His fury is poured out like fire, / And the rocks are broken asunder before Him / [7] The LORD is good, / A stronghold in the day of trouble; / And He knoweth them that take refuge in Him. / [8] But with an overrunning flood / He will make a full end of the place thereof, / And darkness shall pursue His enemies. / [9] What do ye devise against the LORD? / He will make a full end; / Trouble shall not rise up the second time / [10] For though they be like tangled thorns, / And be drunken according to their drink, / They shall be devoured as stubble fully dry. / [11] Out of thee came he forth, / That deviseth evil against the LORD, / That counselleth wickedness. / [12] Thus saith the LORD: / Though they be in full strength, and likewise many, / Even so shall they be cut down, and he shall pass away; / And though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more. / [13] And now will I break his yoke from off thee, / And will burst thy bonds in sunder. / [14] And the LORD hath given commandment concerning thee, / That no more of thy name be sown; / Out of the house of thy god will I cut off / The graven image and the molten image; / I will make thy grave; for thou art become worthless.

2 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him / That bringeth good tidings, that announceth peace! / Keep thy feasts, O Judah, / Perform thy vows; / For the wicked one shall no more pass through thee; / He is utterly cut off. /

[2] A maul is come up before thy face; / Guard the defences, / Watch the way, make thy loins strong, / Fortify thy power mightily!— / [3] For the LORD restoreth the pride of Jacob, / As the pride of Israel; / For the emptiers have emptied them out, / And marred their vine-branches.— / [4] The shield of his mighty men is made red, / The valiant men are in scarlet; / The chariots are fire of steel in the day of his preparation, / And the cypress spears are made to quiver. / [5] The chariots rush madly in the streets, / They jostle one against another in the broad places; / The appearance of them is like torches, / They run to and fro like the lightnings. / [6] He bethinketh himself of his worthies; / They stumble in their march; / They make haste to the wall thereof, / And the mantelet is prepared. / [7] The gates of the rivers are opened, / And the palace is dissolved. / [8] And the queen is uncovered, she is carried away, / And her handmaids moan as with the voice of doves, / Tabering upon their breasts / [9] But Nineveh hath been from of old like a pool of water; / Yet they flee away; / 'Stand, stand'; / But none looketh back. / [10] Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold; / For there is no end of the store, / Rich with all precious vessels. / [11] She is empty, and void, and waste; / And the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, / And convulsion is in all loins, / And the faces of them all have gathered blackness. / [12] Where is the den of the lions, / Which was the feeding-place of the young lions, / Where the lion and the lioness walked, / And the lion's whelp, and none made them afraid? / [13] The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, / And strangled for his lionesses, / And filled his caves with prey, / And his dens with ravin. / [14] Behold, I am against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, / And I will burn her chariots in the smoke, / And the sword shall devour thy young lions, / And I will cut off thy prey from the earth, / And the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

3 Woe to the bloody city! / It is all full of lies and rapine, / The prey departeth not. / [2] Hark! the whip, and hark! the rattling of wheels; / And prancing horses, and bounding chariots; / [3] The horseman charging, / And the flashing sword, and the glittering spear; / And a multitude of slain, and a heap of carcasses; / And there is no end of the corpses, / And they stumble upon their corpses; / [4] Because of the multitude of the= harlotries of the well-favoured harlot, /

The mistress of witchcrafts, / That selleth nations
through her harlotries, / And families through
her witchcrafts. / [5] Behold, I am against thee,
saith the LORD of hosts, / And I will uncover
thy skirts upon thy face, / And I will show the
nations thy nakedness, / And the kingdoms thy
shame. / [6] And I will cast detestable things
upon thee, and make thee vile, / And will make
thee as dung. / [7] And it shall come to pass, that
all they that look upon thee / Shall flee from
thee, / And say: 'Nineveh is laid waste; / Who will
bemoan her? / Whence shall I seek comforters /
for thee?' / [8] Art thou better than No-amon, /
That was situate among the rivers, / That had
the waters round about her; / Whose rampart
was the sea, and of the sea her wall? / [9] Ethiopia
and Egypt were thy strength, and it was infinite; /
Put and Lubim were thy helpers. / [10] Yet was
she carried away, / She went into captivity; / Her
young children also were dashed in pieces / At
the head of all the streets; / And they cast lots
for her honourable men, / And all her great men
were bound in chains. / [11] Thou also shalt be
drunken, / Thou shalt swoon; / Thou also shalt
seek a refuge / Because of the enemy. / [12] All
thy fortresses shall be like fig-trees with the first-
ripe figs: / If they be shaken, they fall into the
mouth of the eater. / [13] Behold, thy people in
the midst of thee are women; / The gates of thy
land are set wide open unto thine enemies; / The
fire hath devoured thy bars. / [14] Draw thee
water for the siege, / Strengthen thy fortresses; /
Go into the clay, and tread the mortar, / Lay
hold of the brickmould. / [15] There shall the fire
devour thee; / The sword shall cut thee off, / It
shall devour thee like the canker-worm; / Make
thyself many as the canker-worm, / Make thyself
many as the locust. / [16] Thou hast multiplied
thy merchants / Above the stars of heaven; / The
canker-worm spreadeth itself, and flieth away. /
[17] Thy crowned are as the locusts, / And
thy marshals as the swarms of grasshoppers, /
Which camp in the walls in the cold day, / But
when the sun ariseth they flee away, / And their
place is not known where they are. / [18] Thy
shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria, / Thy
worthies are at rest; / Thy people are scattered
upon the mountains, / And there is none to
gather them. / [19] There is no assuaging of thy
hurt, / Thy wound is grievous; / All that hear
the report of thee / Clap the hands over thee; /
For upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed
continually?