

# Nahum 2

## Outline:

1. 2:1-7 – **Nineveh is taken**
  - a. 2:1-2 – Announcement of the coming siege
  - b. 2:3-4 – Approach of the Babylonians
  - c. 2:5 – Surprised Inhabitants attempt to resist
  - d. 2:6 – Babylon enters the walls of Nineveh
  - e. 2:7 – Nineveh falls and surviving citizens are taken away
2. 2:8-10 – **Nineveh is plundered**
3. 2:11-13 – **Nineveh is mocked and shamed**
  - a. 2:11 – a song of mockery sung to Nineveh
  - b. 2:12 – Nineveh’s past brutality by the leaders and for their people
  - c. 2:13 – YHWH speaks total devastation against Nineveh

Chapter one ends with a messenger running from the battle in Nineveh through the mountains of Judah announcing salvation for Israel because of the defeat of the Assyrians.

- Judah is the one receiving this good news
- The runner has witnessed the fall of Nineveh and is announcing this joyful news.
- The mention of feet place focus on the running and swiftness of bringing this important news
- “Peace” is the Hebrew “shalom” which refers to more than military peace, but to wholeness, health and fullness of life in every aspect of human existence. It is a word for harmony with God’s reality.
- Nahum 1:15 is from Nahum’s older contemporary Isaiah 52:7 where Isaiah writes, “How beautiful are the feet...”, but Nahum identifies these feet when he says instead, “Behold the feet...”

**Nahum 2:1** – “The scatterer has come up against you. Man the ramparts; watch the road; dress for battle; collect all your strength.”

1870 [e]	6822 [e]	4694 [e]	5341 [e]	6440 [e]	5921 [e]	6327 [e]	5927 [e]
de·reḵ	ṣap·pêh-	mə·ṣu·rāh;	nā·ṣō·wr	pā·na·yik	'al-	mê·pīṣ	'ā·lāh
דֶּרֶךְ	צִפְהָ	מְצֻרָה	נֶצֹר	פְּנֵיךָ	עַל-	מְפִיץ	עָלָה 1
the road	Watch	the fort	Man	your face	before	He who scatters	Has come up
N-cs	V-Piel-Imp-ms	N-fs	V-Qal-InfAbs	N-mpc   2fs	Prep	V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms
3966 [e]	3581 [e]	553 [e]	4975 [e]	2388 [e]			
mə·'ōḏ.	kō·aḥ	'am·mêṣ	mā·tə·na·yim,	ḥaz·zêq			
מְאֹד:	כֹּחַ	אַמְץ	מְתַנְּיִם	תַּנְּק			
mightily	[your] power	Fortify	[your] flanks	Strengthen			
Adv	N-ms	V-Piel-Imp-ms	N-md	V-Piel-Imp-ms			

1. Written in 645 to help confirm the faith of the believers in Judah facing the oppression of the Assyrian empire.
2. Four rapid imperatives challenging the then powerful Assyrians in Nineveh:
  - “Guard!” “Watch!” “Strengthen!” “Muster!”



**I am Ashurbanipal  
king of the world,  
king of Assyria**

Edited by Gareth Breton



From the 800's Ashurnasipal II (883-859) wrote:

"I built a pillar over against his city-gate, and I flayed all the chief men who had revolted, and I covered the pillar with their skins; some I walled up within the pillar, and some upon the pillar on stakes I impaled, and others I fixed to stakes round about the pillar; many within the border of my own land I flayed, and I spread their skins upon the walls; and I cut off the limbs of the high officers, of the high royal officers who had rebelled. Many captives from among them I burned with fire, and many I captured alive. From some I cut off their hands and their fingers, and from others I cut off their noses and their ears . . . and the eyes of many men I put out I made one heap of the living, and another of the heads, and I bound their heads to vines round about the city. Their young men and maidens I burned in the fire."

Carved in the stone monuments or on the walls of their palaces along with detailed images of battles is written:

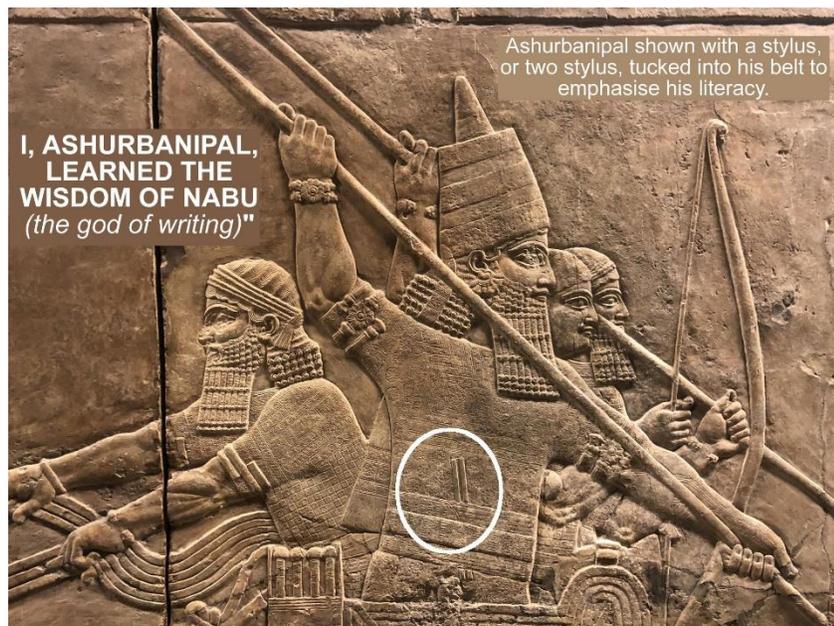
"They suspended their corpses from poles, tore their skin off, and affixed it to the city walls . . . I let dogs, swine, wolves, vultures, the birds of the heavens, and the sweet-water fish devour their cut-off limbs. . . The people who lived in the city and had not come out and had not acknowledged my rule, I slew. I chopped off their heads and cut off their lips. . . I bored through his jaw with my cutting dagger, pulled a rope through his cheek and the sides of his face, and attached a dog chain to him, and let him guard the gate at the east gate of Nineveh."

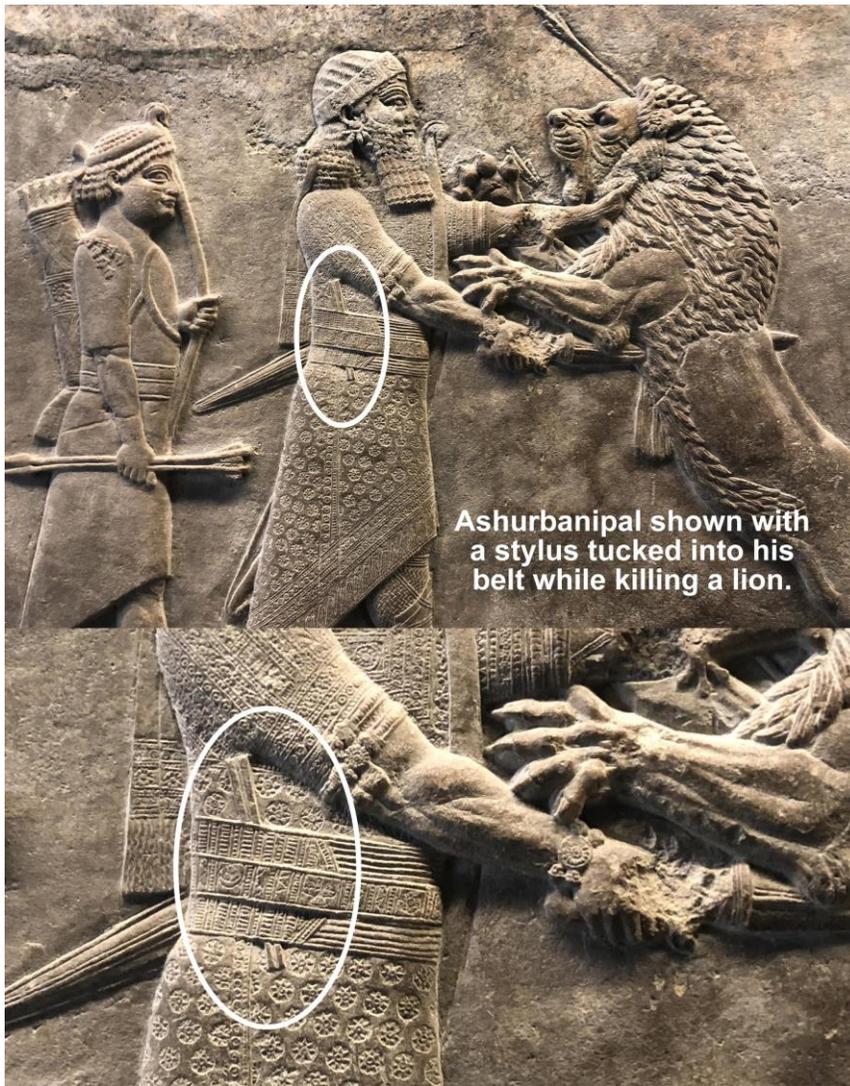
- From the Annals of Ashurbanipal

"chariots supplied with the equipment for men and horses; numerous talents of silver, gold, lead, copper iron; brightly colored garments of every fabric; golden bowls, golden beakers, golden goblets, golden pitchers; camels, oxen, elephants, monkeys, apes; ivory couches inlaid and bejeweled; elephants' hides, lambs, birds, horses, mules, cattle sheep, camels."

Concerning his library Ashurbanipal wrote:

"I learned the craft of Adapa, the sage, (which is) the secret knowledge, everything pertaining to the scribal art, I am well acquainted with the signs of heaven and earth, I was deliberating in the assembly of the scribal experts, I was calculating the liver (which is) an image of heaven together with the (most) competent oil (divination) experts, I solved complicated mathematical problems that have not (even) been understood before, I read the artfully written texts in which the Sumerian version was obscure and the Akkadian version for clarifying (too) difficult, I am enjoying the cuneiform wedges (writing) on stone(s) from before the flood."





Ashurbanipal shown with a stylus tucked into his belt while killing a lion.

2:2 – “For the Lord is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers have plundered them and ruined their branches.

3588 [e]	3478 [e]	1347 [e]	3290 [e]	1347 [e]	853 [e]	3068 [e]	7725 [e]	3588 [e]
kî	yîś·rā·'êl;	kiġ·'ō·wn	ya·'ā·qōb,	ge·'ō·wn	'et-	Yah·weh	šāb	kî
כִּי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	כְּגֵאוֹן	יַעֲקֹב	גֵאוֹן	אֶת-	יְהוָה	שָׁב	כִּי 2
for	of Israel	Like the excellence	of Jacob	the excellence	-	Yahweh	will restore	For
Conj	N-proper-ms	Prep-k   N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	DirObjM	N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj
		7843 [e]	2156 [e]	1238 [e]		1238 [e]		
		ši·hê·tū.	ū·ze·mō·rê·hem	bō·qə·qîm,		bə·qā·qūm		
		שִׁחֲתוּ:	וּזְמֵרֵיהֶם	בְּקֵימִים		בְּקֵימִים		
		ruined	and their vine branches	the emptiers		have emptied them out		
		V-Piel-Perf-3cp	Conj-w   N-fpc   3mp	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp		V-Qal-Perf-3cp   3mp		

1. The reason for Nineveh’s invasion is what they had done to Israel.
  - a. Assyria not only disciplined Israel for the Lord, but they left nothing to grow when it says, they “ruined their branches.”

b. Assyria had gone too far

c.

**2:3** – “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.

784 [e]	8529 [e]	2428 [e]	376 [e]	119 [e]	1368 [e]	4043 [e]
bə·'êš-	mə·t̪ul-lā·'îm,	ħa·yil	'an·šê-	mə·'ād-dām,	gib·bō-rê-hū	mā·gên
בְּאֵשׁ -	מְתַלְעִים	חַיִּל	אֲנָשֵׁי-	מְאָדָּם	גְּבֻרֵיהֶוּ	מִגָּן 3
with flaming	in scarlet	valiant	the men [are]	[are] made red	of his mighty men	The shields
Prep-b   N-csc	V-Pual-Prtcpl-mp	N-ms	N-mpc	V-Pual-Prtcpl-ms	Adj-mpc   3ms	N-csc

7477 [e]	1265 [e]	3559 [e]	3117 [e]	7393 [e]	6393 [e]
hā·rə·'ā·lū.	wə·hab·bərō·šîm	hā·kî-nōw;	bə·yō·wm	hā·re·kəb	pə·lā·dō·wt̪
הֲרַעְלוּ:	וְהִבְרִשִׁים	הַכִּינּוּ	בַּיּוֹם	הֲרָכֵב	פְּלָדוֹת
are brandished	and the spears	of his preparation	in the day	the chariots [come]	torches
V-Hofal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w, Art   N-mp	V-Hifil-Inf   3ms	Prep-b   N-msc	Art   N-ms	N-fp

1. First the approaching, invading Babylonian army can be seen.
2. Babylon totally dominates the land surrounding Nineveh.
3. “red shields” may mean:
  - a. Red with blood from past battles
  - b. Sun reflecting on the bronze/copper shields
  - c. The color the shields are dyed for decoration.
  - d. Or, most likely, the red is the blood of the Assyrians crushed by Babylon on their way to Nineveh.
4. “clothed in scarlet” may mean the same or indicates the great confidence the approaching invaders have.
5. Chariots with “flashing metal” may indicate they are virtually indestructible being covered with bronze.
6. The soldiers have cypress spears which means they are long, fresh and strong wood.

**2:4** – “The chariots race madly through the streets; they rush to and fro through the squares; they gleam like torches; dart like lightning.

4758 [e] mar·'ê·hen מְרֵאִיָּהוּ they seem N-mpc   3fp	7339 [e] bā·rə·ḥō·bō·wt; בְּרַחְבוֹת in the broad [roads] Prep-b, Art   N-mp	8264 [e] yiš·taq·šə·qūn יִשְׁתַּקְּשְׁקוּן they jostle one another V-Hitpael-Imperf-3mp   Pn	7393 [e] hā·re·keb, הָרֶכֶב the chariots Art   N-ms	1984 [e] yiṭ·hō·wl·lū יִתְהוֹלְלוּ rage V-Hitpael-Imperf-3mp	2351 [e] ba·ḥū·šō·wt בְּחוּצוֹת 4 In the streets Prep-b, Art   N-mp
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7323 [e] yə·rō·w·šē·šū. יְרוּצוּ: they run V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	1300 [e] kab·bə·rā·qīm כְּבָרְקִים like lightning Prep-k, Art   N-mp	3940 [e] kal·lap·pî·ḏim, כְּלָפִידִם like torches Prep-k, Art   N-mp
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1. The chariots are in the suburbs outside the walls of the great city Nineveh. The battle has not yet reached the walls of the city.
2. The chariots are pillaging the streets laying waste to everyone outside the walls.
3. Again, the metal covering the chariots is mentioned
4. The people in the city are merely waiting to be slaughtered.

**2:5** – “He remembers his officers; they stumble as they go, they hasten to the wall; the siege tower[b] is set up.

4116 [e] yə·ma·hă·rū יִמְהָרוּ they make haste V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	1979 [e] ba·hă·lî·kā·tām; בְּהִלְכֹתָם in their walk Prep-b   N-fsc   3mp	3782 [e] ba·hă·lî·kō·w·tām [בהלכותם] - Prep-b   N-fpc   3mp	5526 [e] yik·kā·šə·lū יִכָּשְׁלוּ they stumble V-Nifal-Imperf-3mp	117 [e] 'ad·dî·rāw, אֲדִירָיו his nobles N-mpc   3ms	2142 [e] yiz·kōr יִזְכֹּר 5 He remembers V-Qal-Imperf-3ms
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5526 [e] has·sō·kêk. הַסִּבָּךְ the defense Art   N-ms	3559 [e] wə·hu·kan וְהוּכַן and is prepared Conj-w   V-Hofal-ConjPerf-3ms	2346 [e] ḥō·w·mā·tāh, חֹמֹתֶיהָ to her walls N-fsc   3fs
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1. Ashurbanipal (the king in Nahum’s day, but not in 612 BC) is suddenly struck with reality when he realizes he needs his soldiers INSIDE his walled city. He is not prepared for this.
2. “noble ones” is the military, the royal guard
3. The royal guard’s reaction is the same as the kings: shock, and they stumble on their way to take position on the wall.
4. The city of Nineveh begins to prepare for a siege, but the siege is already underway
5. Nineveh is already surrounded and the siege equipment is in place. No one going to escape

2:6 – “The river gates are opened; the palace melts away;

4127 [e]	1964 [e]	6605 [e]	5104 [e]	8179 [e]
nā·mō·wḡ.	wə·ha·hē·kāl	niḡ·tā·ḥū;	han·nə·hā·rō·wt	ša·'ā·ré
נְמוּג:	וְהֵיכַל	נִפְתְּחוּ	הַנְּהָרוֹת	שַׁעְרֵי 6
is dissolved	and the palace	are opened	of the rivers	The gates
V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Conj-w, Art   N-ms	V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	Art   N-mp	N-mpc

Article :: Noun - mascu

2:7 – “its mistress is stripped; she is carried off, her slave girls lamenting, moaning like doves and beating their breasts.

519 [e]	5927 [e]	1540 [e]	5324 [e]
wə·'am·hō·te·hā,	hō·'ā·lā·tāh;	gul·lə·tāh	wə·huṣ·ṣab
וְאִמֶּהֶתִּיהָ	וְהֵעֲלֵתָהּ	גִּלְתָּהּ	וְהֵצִיב 7
and her maidservants	she shall be brought up	she shall be led away captive	And it is decreed
Conj-w   N-fpc   3fs	V-Hofal-Perf-3fs	V-Pual-Perf-3fs	Conj-w   V-Hofal-ConjPerf-3ms

3824 [e]	5921 [e]	8608 [e]	3123 [e]	6963 [e]	5090 [e]
lib·bē·hen.	'al-	mə·tō·pə·pōt	yō·w·nīm,	kə·qō·wl	mə·na·hā·ḡō·wt
לְבִבְהֶן:	עַל-	מִתְּכַפֵּת	יוֹנִים	כְּקוֹל	מִנְהַגוֹת
their breasts	on	Beating	of doves	as with the voice	shall lead [her]
N-mpc   3fp	Prep	V-Piel-Prtcpl-fp	N-fp	Prep-k   N-msc	V-Piel-Prtcpl-fp

1. The Babylonians had taken control of the water gates that controlled the flow of water into the city. The gates had been shut to hold the water back causing both an opening for the invasion and a pooling up of water.
2. When the Bablyonians were ready they opened the water gates to flood the city.
3. The great palace/temple is washed away, or as it says here “melted” as the water eroded the walls.
4. According to the writing of Diodorus Siculus the Greek historian from the ancient world Nineveh fell due to a series of heavy rains that swelled the Tigris, flooded the city and overcame the city wall for a length of about two miles.

2:8 – “Nineveh is like a pool whose waters run away. “Halt! Halt!” they cry, but none turns back.

5975 [e]	5127 [e]	1992 [e]	1931 [e]	3117 [e]	4325 [e]	1295 [e]	5210 [e]
'im·dū	nā·sîm,	wə·hêm·māh	hî;	mî·mê	ma·yim	kib·rê·kaṭ-	wə·nî·nə·wêh
עמדו	נָסוּם	וְהֵמָּה	הָיָא	מִימֵי	— מֵיִם	כְּבַרְכַּת	וְנִינְוָה 8
Halt	flee away	and they	was	of old	of water	like a pool	And Though Nineveh
V-Qal-Imp-mp	V-Qal-PrtcpI-mp	Conj-w   Pro-3mp	Pro-3fs	Prep-m   N-mpc	N-mp	Prep-k   N-fsc	Conj-w   N-proper-fs

6437 [e]	369 [e]	5975 [e]
maṭ·neh.	wə·'ên	'ā·mō·dū
מַפְנֵה:	וְאֵין	עַמְדוּ
turns back	but no one	Halt [they cry]
V-Hifil-PrtcpI-ms	Conj-w   Adv	V-Qal-Imp-mp

2:9 – “Plunder the silver, plunder the gold! There is no end of the treasure of the wealth of all precious things.

2532 [e]	3627 [e]	3605 [e]	3519 [e]	8498 [e]	7097 [e]	369 [e]	2091 [e]	962 [e]	3701 [e]	962 [e]
hem·dāh.	kə·lî	mik·kōl	kā·bōd	lat·tə·kū·nāh,	qê·ṣeh	wə·'ên	zā·hāb;	bōz·zū	ke·seṭ	bōz·zū
חֲמֻדָּה:	כָּלִי	מִכָּל	כְּבוֹד	לְתַכּוּנָהּ	קֶצֶה	וְאֵין !	זָהָב	בְּזוּ	כֶּסֶף	בְּזוּ 9
desirable	prize	of every	Or wealth	of treasure	end	and [There is] no	of gold	take spoil	of silver	Take spoil
N-fs	N-msc	Prep-m   N-msc	N-ms	Prep-l, Art   N-fs	N-ms	Conj-w   Adv	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp

2:10 – “Desolate! Desolation and ruin! Hearts melt and knees tremble; anguish is in all loins; all faces grow pale!

1290 [e]	6375 [e]	4549 [e]	3820 [e]	1110 [e]	4003 [e]	950 [e]
bir·ka·yim,	ū·piq	nā·mēs	wə·lêb	ū·mə·bul·lā·qāh;	ū·mə·bū·qāh	bū·qāh
בְּרָכָיִם	וּפִיק	נֶמֶס	וְלֵב !	וּמְבֻלָּקָה	וּמְבוֹקָה	בוֹקָה 10
the knees	and shake	melts	and the heart	and waste	and desolate	She is empty
N-fd	Conj-w   N-ms	V-Nifal-PrtcpI-ms	Conj-w   N-ms	Conj-w   V-Pual-PrtcpI-fs	Conj-w   N-fs	N-fs

6289 [e]	6908 [e]	3605 [e]	6440 [e]	4975 [e]	3605 [e]	2479 [e]
pā·rūr.	qib·bə·ṣū	kul·lām	ū·pə·nê	mā·tə·na·yim,	bə·kāl	wə·ḥal·ḥā·lāh
פְּאֲרוּר:	קִבְצוּ	כָּלָם	וּפְנֵי	מַתְנִים	בְּכָל־	וְחַלְחָלָה
of color	are drained	all their	and faces	side	in every	and [Much] pain [is]
N-ms	V-Piel-Perf-3cp	N-msc   3mp	Conj-w   N-cpc	N-md	Prep-b   N-msc	Conj-w   N-fs

2:11 – “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?

1980 [e]	834 [e]	3715 [e]	1931 [e]	4829 [e]	738 [e]	4583 [e]	346 [e]
hā·lak	'ā·šer	lak·kə·pī·rīm;	hū	ū·mir·'eh	'ā·rā·yō·wt,	mə·'ō·wn	'ay·yêh
וַיֵּלֶךְ	אֲשֶׁר	לְפָרִים	הוּא	וּמְרֵעָה	אֲרִיּוֹת	מְעוֹן	אֵינָה 11
walked	where	of the young lions	is	and the feeding place	of the lions	the dwelling	Where
V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Pro-r	Prep-l, Art   N-mp	Pro-3ms	Conj-w   N-ms	N-mp	N-msc	Interrog

2729 [e]	369 [e]	738 [e]	1482 [e]	8033 [e]	3833 [e]	738 [e]
ma·ḥā·rīd.	wə·'ên	'ar·yêh	gūr	šām	lā·bî	'ar·yêh
מִתְרִידִים	וְאֵין	אֲרִיָּה	גֹּיֵר	שָׁם	לְבִיָּא	אֲרִיָּה
made [them] afraid	and no one	of lion	[and] cub	there	the lioness	the lion
V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w   Adv	N-ms	N-msc	Adv	N-ms	N-ms

**2:12** – “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.

4390 [e]	3833 [e]	2614 [e]	1484 [e]	1767 [e]	2963 [e]	738 [e]
way·mal·lê-	lā·lib·'ō·tāw;	ū·mə·ḥan·nêq	gō·rō·w·tāw,	bə·dê	ṭō·rêp	'ar·yêh
וַיִּמְלֵא	לְלִבָּאֵתוֹ	וּמְחַנֵּק	גְּרוֹתָיו	בְּדֵי	טָרְף	אֲרִיָּה 12
and Filled	for his lionesses	and Killed	his cubs	enough for	tore in pieces	the lion
Conj-w   V-Piel-ConsecImperf-3ms	Prep-l   N-fpc   3ms	Conj-w   V-Piel-Prtcpl-ms	N-mpc   3ms	Prep-b   N-msc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-ms

2966 [e]	4585 [e]	2356 [e]	2964 [e]
ṭə·rê·pāh.	ū·mə·'ō·nō·tāw	ḥō·rāw,	ṭə·rêp
טָרְפָה	וּמְעוֹנָתָיו	חֲרָיו	טָרְף
with flesh	and his dens	his caves	with prey
N-fs	Conj-w   N-fpc   3ms	N-mpc   3ms	N-ms

**2:13**– “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.

7393 [e] rik·bāh, רכבָּהּ your chariots N-msc   3fs	6227 [e] be·'ā·šān בעֶשֶׁן in smoke Prep-b, Art   N-ms	1197 [e] we·hib·'ar·tī וְהִבְעַרְתִּי and I will burn Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	6635 [e] še·bā·'ō·wt, צְבָאוֹת of hosts N-cp	3068 [e] Yah·weh יְהוָה Yahweh N-proper-ms	5002 [e] ne·'um נֹאֵם says N-msc	413 [e] 'ê·la·yik, אֵלֶיךָ against you Prep   2fs	2005 [e] hin·nī הִנְנִי Behold I [am] Interjection   1cs
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3808 [e] we·lō- וְלֹא- and no Conj-w   Adv-NegPrt	2964 [e] ṭar·pêk, טַרְפֵּךְ your prey N-msc   2fs	776 [e] mê·'e·reš מֵאֲרֶץ from the earth Prep-m   N-fs	3772 [e] we·hiḵ·rat·tī וְהִכַּרְתִּי and I will cut off Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	2719 [e] ḥā·reb; חֶרֶב the sword N-fs	398 [e] tō·ḵal תֹּאכַל shall devour V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	3715 [e] ū·ḵə·pî·ra·yik וּכְפִירֶיךָ and your young lions Conj-w   N-mpc   2fs
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s	4397 [e] mal·'ā·ḵé·ḵéh. מַלְאֲכָה: of your messengers N-mpc   2fs	6963 [e] qō·wl קוֹל the voice N-msc	5750 [e] 'ō·wd עוֹד More Adv	8085 [e] yiš·šā·ma' יִשְׁמַע shall be heard V-Nifal-Imperf-3ms
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