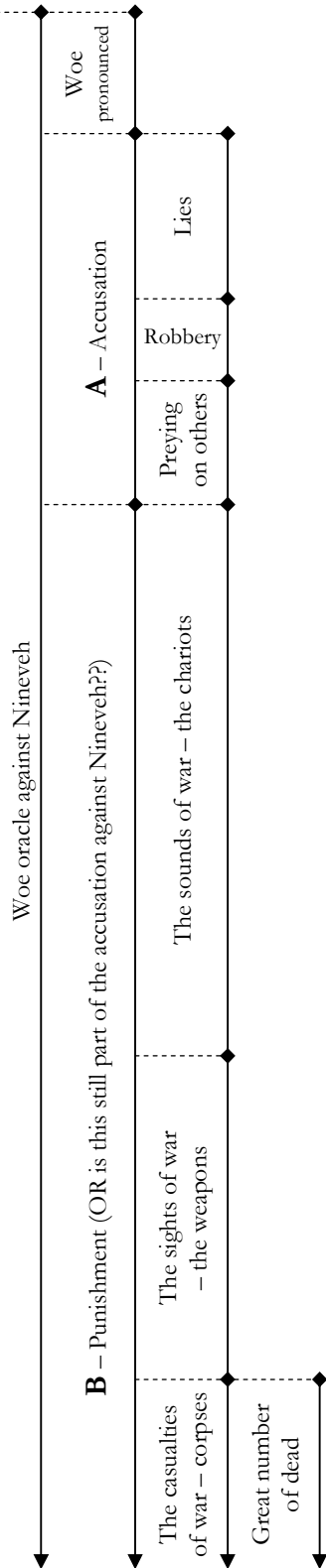


Nahum 3

The inevitability of (and reason for) the fall of Nineveh



1 Woe

to the bloody city!

it *is*

all full of

lies *and*

robbery;

the prey

departeth not;

2 The noise

of a whip, and

the noise

of the rattling

of the wheels, and

of the prancing

horses, and

of the jumping

chariots.

3 The horseman

lifteth up

both

the bright sword and

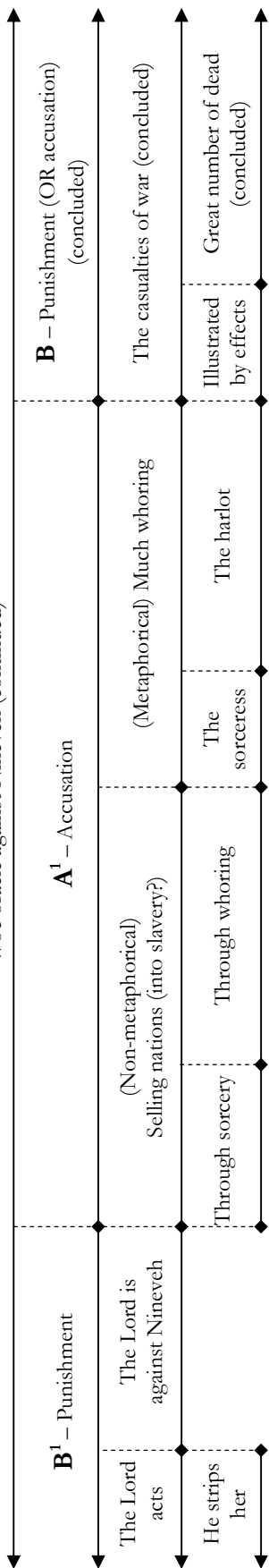
the glittering spear: and

there is

a multitude

of slain, and

Woe oracle against Nineveh (continued)



a great number
of carcases; and
there is
none end
of *their* corpses;
they stumble
upon their corpses:

4 Because of
the multitude
of the whoredoms of
the wellfavoured
harlot,
the mistress
of witchcrafts,
that
selleth
nations
through
her whoredoms, and
families
through
her witchcrafts.

5 Behold,
I *am* against thee,
saith the LORD
of hosts; and
I will
discover

Woe oracle against Nineveh (continued)

B¹ – Punishment (continued)

The consequences – friendless and unwept

The Lord acts (concluded)

No
comfort

They will say . . .

Who will
mourn?
Nineveh is
destroyed

They will
flee

When others see her

He makes
an example
of her

He treats
her with
contempt

He pelts her with filth

He shames her publicly

He strips
her (concl)

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

I will

shew

the nations

thy nakedness, and

the kingdoms

thy shame. **6** And

I will

cast

abominable filth

upon thee, and

make thee

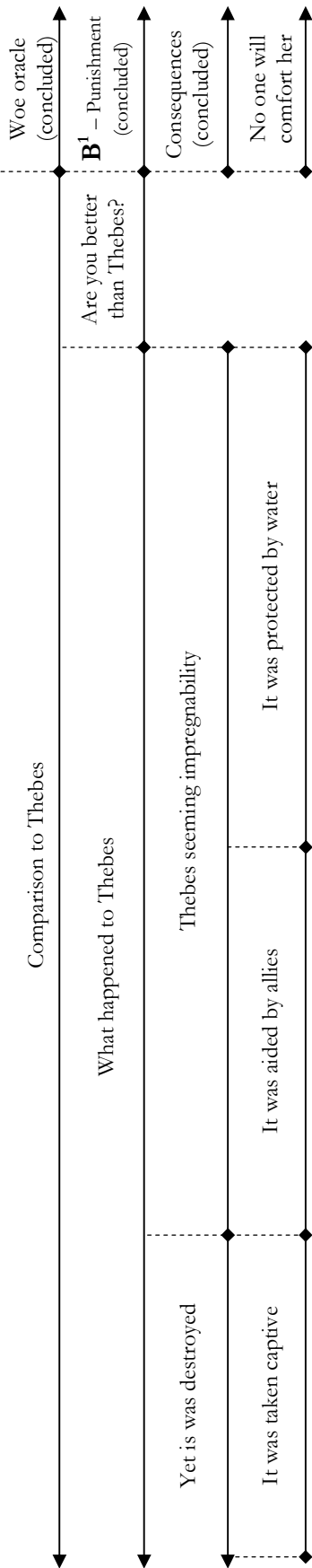
vile, and

will set thee

as a gazingstock.

thy skirts

upon thy face, and



shall I seek
comforters
for thee?

8 Art thou
better than
populous No,
that was situate
among the rivers,
that had
the waters
round about it,
whose rampart
was the sea, *and*
her wall
was from the sea?

9 Ethiopia and
Egypt
were her strength, and
it was infinite;
Put and
Lubim
were thy helpers.

10 Yet
was she
carried away,
she
went into
captivity:

Comparison to Thebes (continued)

<p>What happened to Thebes (concluded)</p>	<p>Its children were killed</p>
<p>Yet is was destroyed (concluded)</p>	<p>Its nobles became slaves</p>
<p>Nineveh will face the same fate</p>	<p>Stupefied/ insensate</p>
<p>The same will also happen to Nineveh</p>	<p>Ruined/ passed out</p>
<p>It will lose its men (or men will lose courage)</p>	<p>Desperate defense /seeking allies</p>
<p>It will fall easily</p>	<p>Like ripe fig trees . . .</p>
<p>... Nineveh's 'fruit' will fall easily</p>	<p>Like ripe fig trees . . .</p>

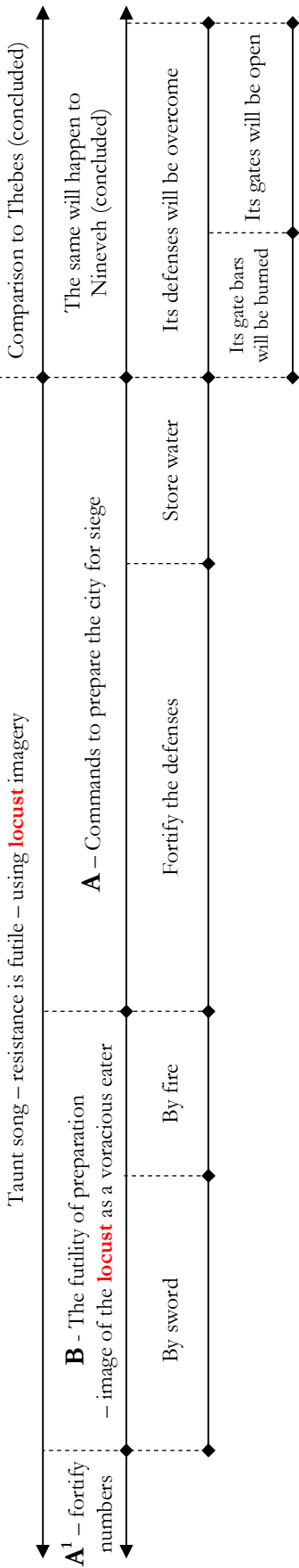
her young children also
 were dashed in pieces
 at the top
 of all the streets: and
 they cast lots
 for her honourable men, and
 all her great men
 were bound in chains.

11 Thou also
 shalt be drunken:
 thou
 shalt be hid,
 thou also
 shalt seek strength
 because of the enemy.

12 All thy strong holds
shall be like
 fig trees
 with the firstripe figs:
 if
 they be shaken,
 they shall even fall
 into the mouth
 of the eater.

13 Behold,
 thy people
 in the midst of thee
are women:

Taunt song – resistance is futile – using **locust** imagery



the gates
of thy land
shall be set wide open
unto thine enemies:

the fire
shall devour
thy bars.

14 Draw thee
waters
for the siege,
fortify
thy strong holds:
go
into clay, and
tread
the mortar,
make strong
the brickkiln.

15 There shall
the fire
devour thee;
the sword
shall cut thee off,
it
shall eat thee up
like the **cankerworm**:
make thyself
many

Taunt song – resistance is futile (concluded)

A¹ – fortify numbers -
locusts as a vast horde

B¹ - Futility of numbers – image of **locusts** as a flying swarm

The great men

They will flee like locusts

Their nobles are
as abundant as locusts

They
will flee

The merchants

Although they have
many merchants

as the **cankerworm**,
make thyself
many
as the **locusts**.

16 Thou
hast multiplied
thy merchants
above the stars
of heaven:
the **cankerworm**
spoileth, and
flieth away.

17 Thy crowned
are
as the **locusts**, and
thy captains
as the great **grasshoppers**,
which camp
in the hedges
in the cold day, *but*
when
the sun ariseth
they flee away, and
their place
is not known
where they *are*.

An address to the king of Assyria

The international reaction

The effects of the judgment on the Ninevites

Reason
(rhetorical question)

Joy at your downfall

On the king (and kingdom?)
– a fatal wound

On the people – exile

On the ruling classes
– sleep of death

18 Thy shepherds

slumber,

O king of Assyria:

thy nobles

shall dwell

in the dust:

thy people

is scattered

upon the mountains, and

no man

gathereth *them*.

19 *There is*

no healing

of thy bruise;

thy wound

is grievous:

all

that hear

the bruit

of thee

shall clap the hands

over thee:

for

upon whom

hath not thy wickedness

passed continually?