



HABAKKUK

Chapter 1

1 ¶ The burden that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

Habakkuk's First Complaint

2 ¶ O LORD, how long will I cry out and ^aYou will not hear! I *even* cry out to You *about* ^bviolence, and You will ^cnot save!

3 Why do you show me iniquity and cause *me* to behold injustice? For plunder and violence *are* before me. And there *are those who* raise up strife and contention.

4 Therefore, the law is powerless and judgment never goes forth. For the ^dwicked surround the righteous. Therefore, justice goes forth perverted.

The Lord Answers

5 ¶ ^e“Look among the nations and wonder and be astonished. For I will work a work in your days *that* you will not believe, though it is told *to you*.

6 “For behold, I am ^fraising up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and impetuous ^gnation, that will march through the breadth of the land to possess the dwelling places *that are* not theirs.

7 “They *are* terrible and dreadful. Their justice and their dignity will proceed from themselves.

8 “Their horses also *are* ^hswifter than the leopards, and *are* more fierce than the evening wolves. And their horse-

men press on proudly. And their horsemen will come from afar. They will fly as the ⁱeagle *that* hastens to eat.

9 “They will all come for violence. Their faces *are* set *as* the east wind, and they will gather the captivity *as* the sand.

10 “And they will scoff at the kings, and the princes will be a scorn to them. They will deride every stronghold, for they will heap earthen *mounds* and take it.

11 “Then *his* mind will change and he will pass over and offend, ^jascribing this power to his god.”

Habakkuk's Second Complaint

12 ¶ ^kAre You not ^lfrom everlasting, O LORD my God, My Holy One? We will not die. O LORD, ^mYou have ordained them for judgment. And O Mighty God, You have established them for ⁿcorrection.

13 *Your* eyes *are* too pure to look upon evil. And You cannot look on iniquity. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously *and* hold Your tongue when the wicked devours *the one who is* more righteous than he?

14 *Why* do You make men as the fish of the sea, as the creeping things *who have* no ruler over them?

15 They take up all of them with the hook. They catch them in their net and gather them in their dragnet.

Chapter 1: a Lm 3:8 b Mc 2:1,2; 3:1-3 c Jb 21:5-16 d Jr 12:1 e Is 29:14 f 2 Kg 24:2 g Ez 7:24; 21:31 h Jr 4:13 i Hs 8:1 j Dn 5:4 k Ps 90:2; 93:2 l Is 10:5-7

Therefore, they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore, ^athey sacrifice to their net and burn incense to their drag-net, because by them their share *is* large and their food plentiful.

17 Will they, therefore, empty their net and continually slay the nations without pity?

Chapter 2

The Lord's Answer

1 ¶ I will ^astand on my watch and set myself on the ramparts. And I will watch to see what He will say to me and what I will answer when I am corrected.

2 ¶ Then the LORD answered me and said, ^b“Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets so that he may run who reads it.

3 “For the ^cvision *is* yet for an appointed time. But at the end it will speak and ^dnot lie. Though it tarries, ^ewait for it, because it will ^fsurely come. It will not tarry.

4 ¶ “Behold the proud, his desires are not upright. But ^gthe just will live by his faith.

5 ¶ “Indeed, wine betrays him. *He* ^his an arrogant man and does not stay at home. He ⁱenlarges his desire as Sheol. And as death, he cannot be satisfied. But he gathers to himself all nations and heaps to himself all people.

6 ¶ “Will not all these ^jtake up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, ‘Woe to him who increases *that which is* not his—for how long—and loads himself

with many pledges?’”

7 “Will not your creditors rise up suddenly, and those who collect from you awaken? Indeed, you will become plunder for them.

8 ^k“Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the people will plunder you, because of men’s blood and *for* the violence of the land *and* of the city and of all who dwell in it.

9 ¶ “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house so that he may ^lset his nest on high, so that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

10 “You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many people, and have sinned *against* your soul.

11 “For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber will answer it.

12 ¶ “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and establishes a city by iniquity!

13 “Behold, has not the Lord Almighty determined that the people’s labor is only fuel for the fire, that the nations exhaust themselves for nothing?

14 “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

15 ¶ “Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, who puts your ^mbottle to *him* and makes *him* drunken also, so that you may look on their nakedness!

16 “You are filled with shame instead of glory. Now you drink and

m Jr 25:9 n Dt 8:17 **Chapter 2:** a Is 21:8,11 b Is 8:1 c Dn 8:17,19; 10:14 d Ez 12:24,25 e Hb 10:37,38 f 2 Pt 3:9 g Jn 3:36; Rm 1:17 h Is 5:11-15 i Mc 2:4 j Is 33:1 k Ob 4 l Hs 7:5

be exposed. The cup of the LORD'S right hand will come to you and complete disgrace *will be* on your glory.

17 "For the violence done to Lebanon will cover you, and the devastation of its beasts *that* made them afraid, because of men's blood and the violence of the land *and* of the city, and of all who dwell in it.

18 ¶ "What profit is the graven image when its maker has carved it, the molten image and a teacher of lies? For *its* maker trusts in his *own* handiwork when he fashions speechless idols.

19 "Woe to him who says to the wood, 'Awake,' *and* to the speechless stone, 'Arise.' Will *it be* your teacher? Behold, it *is* laid over with gold and silver, and *there is* no breath at all inside it.

20 "But ^mthe LORD *is* in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Chapter 3

Habakkuk's Prayer

1 ¶ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet on Shigionoth.

2 O LORD, I have heard your speech *and* was afraid. O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make it known. In wrath remember mercy.

3 ¶ God came from Teman and the Holy One from Mount Paran. His glory covered the heavens and the earth was full of His praise.

4 And *His* brightness was as the light. He had rays *flashing* from His hand.

And there His power *was* hidden.

5 Before Him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at His feet.

6 He stood and measured the earth. He beheld, and startled the nations.

^aAnd the everlasting mountains were scattered. The perpetual hills bowed. His ways *are* everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction. The curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

8 ¶ Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? *Was* Your anger against the rivers? *Was* Your wrath against the sea, that You rode on Your horses *and* Your chariots of salvation?

9 Your bow was made bare *according* to the oaths of the tribes, *even* Your word. You divided the earth with waters.

10 The mountains saw You *and* they trembled. The overflowing of the water passed by. The deep uttered its voice *and* ^blifted up its hands on high.

11 The ^csun *and* moon stood still in their habitation. At the light of Your arrows they went, at the shining of Your glittering spear.

12 You marched through the land in indignation. You threshed the nations in anger.

13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people, for salvation with Your anointed one. You crushed the head of the house of the wicked. You stripped him from head to foot.

14 With his own spear You pierced his head when they came out as a

whirlwind to scatter us. Their rejoicing *was* like those who devour the poor in secret.

15 ^dYou walked through the sea with Your horses, *through* the heap of great waters.

16 ¶ When I heard, ^emy stomach trembled. My lips quivered at the voice. Decay entered into my bones and I trembled in myself, so that I might rest in the day of trouble. When he comes up to the people, he will invade them with his troops.

17 ¶ Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit *be* on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold and *there be* no herd in the stalls,

18 yet I will ^frejoice in the LORD. I rejoice in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God *is* my strength and He will make my feet like the ^gfeet of gazelle. And He will make me ^hwalk on my heights. (For the chief singer on my stringed instruments).

d Ps 77:19 **e** Ps 119:120 **f** Is 41:16; 61:10 **g** 2 Sm 22:34 **h** Dt 32:13; 33:29