

Habakkuk

¹ The burden that Habakkuk the prophet has seen: ² Until when, O YHWH, have I cried, || And You do not hear? I cry to You, “Violence!” And You do not save. ³ Why do You show me iniquity, || And cause [me] to behold perversity? And spoiling and violence [are] before me, || And there is strife, and contention lifts [itself] up, ⁴ Therefore law ceases, || And judgment does not go forth forever, || For the wicked is surrounding the righteous, || Therefore wrong judgment goes forth. ⁵ “Look on nations, and behold and marvel greatly. For a work He is working in your days, || You do not believe though it is declared. ⁶ For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, || The bitter and hasty nation, || That is going to the broad places of earth, || To occupy dwelling places not his own. ⁷ He [is] terrible and fearful, || His judgment and his excellence go forth from him. ⁸ His horses have been swifter than leopards, || And sharper than evening wolves, || And his horsemen have increased, || Even his horsemen from afar come in, || They fly as an eagle, hastening to consume. ⁹ All for violence—he comes in, || Their faces swallowing up the east wind, || And he gathers a captivity as the sand. ¹⁰ And he scoffs at kings, || And princes [are] a laughter to him, || He laughs at every fortification, || And he heaps up dust, and captures it. ¹¹ Then the spirit has passed

on, || Indeed, he transgresses, || And [ascribes] this—his power—to his god.” ¹² Are You not of old, O YHWH, my God, my Holy One? We do not die, O YHWH, || You have appointed him for judgment, || And, O Rock, You have founded him for reproof. ¹³ Purer of eyes than to behold evil, || You are not able to look on perverseness, || Why do You behold the treacherous? You keep silent when the wicked || Swallow the more righteous than he, ¹⁴ And You make man as fishes of the sea, || As a creeping thing [with] none ruling over him. ¹⁵ He has brought up each of them with a hook, || He catches it in his net, and gathers it in his dragnet, || Therefore he delights and rejoices. ¹⁶ Therefore he sacrifices to his net, || And makes incense to his dragnet, || For by them [is] his portion fertile, and his food fat. ¹⁷ Does he therefore empty his net, || And continually not spare to slay nations?

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¹ On my charge I stand, and I station myself on a bulwark, and I watch to see what He speaks against me, and what I reply to my reproof. ² And YHWH answers me and says: “Write a vision, and explain on the tablets, || That he may run who is reading it. ³ For yet the vision [is] for a season, || And it breathes for the end, and does not lie, || If it lingers, wait for it, || For surely it comes, it is not late. ⁴ Behold, a presumptuous one! His soul is not upright within him, || And the righteous lives by his faith. ⁵ And also, because the wine [is] treacherous, || A man

is haughty, and does not remain at home, ||
Who has enlarged his soul as Sheol, || And is
as death that is not satisfied, || And gathers to
itself all the nations, || And assembles to itself
all the peoples, ⁶ Are these not—all of them—an
allegory taken up against him, || And a moral
of acute sayings for him, || And say, Woe [to]
him who is multiplying [what is] not his? Until
when also is he multiplying to himself heavy
pledges? ⁷ Do your usurers not instantly rise
up, || And those shaking you awake, || And
you have been a spoil to them? ⁸ Because you
have spoiled many nations, || All the remnant
of the peoples spoil you, || Because of man's
blood, and of violence [to] the land, || [To] the
city, and [to] all dwelling in it. ⁹ Woe [to] him
who is gaining evil gain for his house, || To set
his nest on high, || To be delivered from the
hand of evil, ¹⁰ You have counseled a shameful
thing to your house, || To cut off many peoples,
and your soul [is] sinful. ¹¹ For a stone cries out
from the wall, || And a beam from the wood
answers it. ¹² Woe [to] him who is building a city
by blood, || And establishing a city by iniquity.
¹³ Behold, is it not from YHWH of Hosts || And
peoples are fatigued for fire, || And nations for
vanity are weary? ¹⁴ For the earth is full of
the knowledge of the glory of YHWH, || As the
waters cover over a sea. ¹⁵ Woe [to] him who is
giving drink to his neighbor, || Pouring out your
bottle, and also making drunk, || In order to look
on their nakedness. ¹⁶ You have been filled—
shame without honor, || Drink also, and be

uncircumcised, || Turn around to you does the cup of the right hand of YHWH, || And shameful spewing [is] on your glory. ¹⁷ For violence [done to] Lebanon covers you, || And spoil of beasts frightens them, || Because of man's blood, and of violence [to] the land, || [To] the city, and [to] all dwelling in it. ¹⁸ What profit has a carved image given || That its former has hewn it? A molten image and teacher of falsehood, || That the former has trusted on his own formation—to make mute idols? ¹⁹ Woe [to] him who is saying to wood, Awake, || To a mute stone, Stir up, || It [is] a teacher! Behold, it is overlaid—gold and silver, || And there is no spirit in its midst. ²⁰ And YHWH [is] in His holy temple, || Be silent before Him, all the earth!”

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¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, [set] on shigionoth: ² O YHWH, I heard your report, || I have been afraid, O YHWH, || Your work! In midst of years revive it, || In the midst of years You make known, || In anger You remember mercy. ³ God comes from Teman, || The Holy One from Mount Paran. Pause! His splendor has covered the heavens, || And His praise has filled the earth. ⁴ And the brightness is as the light, || He has rays out of His hand, || And there—the hiding of His strength. ⁵ Before Him goes pestilence, || And a burning flame goes forth at His feet. ⁶ He has stood, and He measures earth, || He has seen, and He shakes off nations, || And mountains of antiquity scatter themselves,

|| The hills of old have bowed, || The ways of old [are] His. ⁷ Under sorrow I have seen tents of Cushan, || Curtains of the land of Midian tremble. ⁸ Has YHWH been angry against rivers? Against rivers [is] Your anger? [Is] Your wrath against the sea? For You ride on Your horses—Your chariots of salvation. ⁹ You make Your bow utterly naked, || The tribes have sworn, saying, “Pause!” You cleave the earth [with] rivers. ¹⁰ Seen You—pained are mountains, || An inundation of waters has passed over, || The deep has given forth its voice, || It has lifted up its hands high. ¹¹ Sun—moon—has stood—a habitation, || Your arrows go on at the light, || At the brightness, the glittering of Your spear. ¹² In indignation You tread earth, || In anger You thresh nations. ¹³ You have gone forth for the salvation of Your people, || For salvation with Your Anointed, || You have struck the head of the house of the wicked, || Laying bare the foundation to the neck. Pause! ¹⁴ You have pierced the head of his leaders with his own rods, || They are tempestuous to scatter me, || Their exultation [is] as to consume the poor in secret. ¹⁵ You have proceeded through the sea with Your horses—the clay of many waters. ¹⁶ I have heard, and my belly trembles, || At the noise have my lips quivered, || Rottenness comes into my bones, || And in my place I tremble, || That I rest for a day of distress, || At the coming up of the people, he overcomes it. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not flourish, || And there is no produce among vines, || The work of the olive has failed,

|| And fields have not yielded food, || The flock
has been cut off from the fold, || And there is no
herd in the stalls, ¹⁸ Yet I, in YHWH I exult, || I
am joyful in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹ YHWH
the Lord [is] my strength, || And He makes my
feet like does, || And causes me to tread on my
high-places. To the overseer with my stringed
instruments!

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