Habakkuk

1 The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet saw.
2 How long, LORD, have I cried for help, and you
do not hear?
I cry to you, “Violence!”
but you do not save.
3 Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do
you look upon oppression?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife arises, and contention is stirred up.
4 Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice
never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous;
therefore justice comes out twisted.
5 “Look among the nations and see;
be astonished, utterly astonished!
For I am doing a work in your days that you
would not believe even if it were told.
6 For look, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that
bitter and impetuous nation, who march
through the breadth of the earth to
possess dwellings not their own.
7 It is dreadful and fearsome;
its justice and dignity come from itself.
8 Its horses are swifter than leopards and fiercer
than wolves at evening.
Its horsemen spread out;
its horsemen come from afar.
They fly like an eagle rushing to devour.
9 All of it comes for violence;

their faces press eastward, and it gathers
captives like sand.
10 It scoffs at kings, and rulers are a
laughingstock to it.
It laughs at every fortress, heaps up earth,
and captures it.
11 Then it sweeps past like the wind and goes on,
guilty—its strength is its god."
12 Are you not from of old, LORD my God, my
Holy One?
We will not die.
LORD, you have appointed him for
judgment;
Rock, you have established him for
correction.
13 Your eyes are too pure to look upon evil, and
you cannot look upon oppression.
Why do you look upon the treacherous and
remain silent when the wicked swallows
one more righteous than himself?
14 You make mankind like the fish of the sea, like
crawling things with no ruler over them.
15 He brings them all up with a hook, drags them
in his net, and gathers them in his
dragnet.
Therefore he rejoices and is glad.
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns
incense to his dragnet, for through them
his portion is rich and his food abundant.
17 Will he therefore keep emptying his net and
continually kill nations without mercy?

2

1 I will stand at my watchpost and station myself
on the rampart.
I will watch to see what he will say to me,
and what I will answer concerning my
complaint.
2 The LORD answered me: “Write the vision and
make it plain on tablets, so that the one
who reads it may run.
3 For the vision is still for the appointed time;
it hastens toward the end and will not lie.
Though it delays, wait for it, for it will surely
come;
it will not be late.
4 Look, his soul is puffed up;
it is not upright within him.
But the righteous will live by his
faithfulness.
5 Moreover, wine is treacherous;
the arrogant man does not rest.
He opens his appetite wide like Sheol and is
like death, never satisfied.
He gathers all nations to himself and
assembles all peoples to himself.
6 Will not all these take up a taunt against him,
with mockery and riddles about him,
saying, ‘Woe to the one who heaps up
what is not his—how long?—and loads
himself with pledges!’
7 Will not those who bite you rise suddenly, and
those who make you tremble awake?
Then you will become plunder for them.
8 Because you plundered many nations, all the
remnant of the peoples will plunder you,

because of human bloodshed and
violence against the land, the city, and all
who live in it.

9 Woe to the one who gains evil gain for his
house, setting his nest on high to escape
the power of disaster!
10 You have planned shame for your house by
cutting off many peoples, sinning against
your own life.
11 For a stone will cry out from the wall, and a
beam from the woodwork will answer it.

12 Woe to the one who builds a town with
bloodshed and establishes a city with
injustice!
13 Does this not come from the LORD of
hosts—that peoples labor only to feed the
fire and 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 the one who gives his neighbor drink,
adding your venom and even making him
drunk, so that you may look upon their
nakedness!
16 You are filled with dishonor instead of glory.
Drink, you too, and expose your
uncircumcision!
The cup in the LORD's right hand will come
around to you, and foul shame will cover
your glory.

17 For violence against Lebanon will cover you,
and the destruction of animals will terrify them, because of human bloodshed and violence against the land, the city, and all who live in it.

18 What use is a carved image that its maker has carved, a cast image, a teacher of lies, that its maker trusts his own creation, making speechless idols?

19 Woe to the one who says to wood, 'Wake up!'
and to silent stone, 'Arise!' Can it teach?
Look, it is covered with gold and silver, but there is no breath at all within it.
20 But the LORD is in his holy temple.
Let all the earth be silent before him."

3

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

2 LORD, I heard the report of you, and I was afraid.
LORD, revive your work in the midst of the years;
in the midst of the years make it known.
In wrath remember compassion.

3 God comes from Teman, the Holy One from Mount Paran.
Selah.
His splendor covers the heavens, and his praise fills the earth.

4 His brightness is like the light;

rays come from his hand, and there his
power is hidden.
5 Pestilence goes before him, and plague follows
at his feet.
6 He stood and measured the earth;
he looked and made nations tremble.
The everlasting mountains were shattered,
the ancient hills bowed down.
His ways are everlasting.
7 I saw the tents of Cushan under affliction;
the tent curtains of the land of Midian
tremble.

8 Was the LORD angry with the rivers?
Was your anger against the rivers, your
wrath against the sea, when you rode
your horses, your chariots of salvation?
9 Your bow is laid completely bare;
oaths are spoken over the shafts.
Selah.
You split the earth with rivers.
10 The mountains saw you and writhed.
A torrent of water swept past;
the deep raised its voice and lifted its hands
on high.
11 The sun and moon stood still in their dwelling
at the light of your arrows as they sped, at
the brightness of your flashing spear.
12 You marched through the earth in indignation;
in anger you threshed the nations.
13 You went out for the salvation of your people,
for the salvation of your anointed.

You shattered the head of the house of the
wicked, laying bare the foundation up to
the neck. Selah.

14 You pierced the head of his warriors with his
own shafts.
They stormed out to scatter me, exulting as
if to devour the poor in secret.
15 You trod the sea with your horses, the surging
of mighty waters.
16 I heard, and my belly trembled;
my lips quivered at the sound.
Rot entered my bones, and I trembled
where I stood.
Yet I will wait quietly for the day of distress
to come upon the people who raid us.
17 Though the fig tree does not blossom and
there is no fruit on the vines, though the
olive crop fails and the fields produce no
food, though the flock is cut off from the
fold and there are no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will exult in the LORD;
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
19 The LORD, the Lord, is my strength.
He makes my feet like those of a doe and
makes me tread on my heights.
For the director, with my stringed
instruments.

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