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, | | 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?

2

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!”

3

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, and the ways of old [are] His. Under sorrow I have seen tents of Cushan, curtains of the land of Midian tremble. 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. You make Your bow utterly naked, the tribes have sworn, saying, “Pause!” You cleave the earth [with] rivers. 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. Sun—moon—has stood—a habitation, Your arrows go on at the light, At the brightness, the glittering of Your spear. In indignation You tread earth, In anger You thresh nations. 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! 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. You have proceeded through the sea with Your horses—the clay of many waters. 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. 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, Yet I, in YHWH I exult, I am joyful in the God of my salvation. 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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