

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?

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, || 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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