

## HABAKKUK

<sup>1</sup> The burden that Habakkuk, the prophet, saw.

<sup>2</sup> How long, Lord, shall I cry, and thou shalt not hear? I suffering violence shall cry on high to thee, and thou shalt not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why showedest thou to me wickedness and travail, for to see prey and unrightwiseness against me? Why beholdest thou despisers, and art still, the while the unpious man defouleth a right-fuller than himself? And thou shalt make men as fishes of the sea, and as creeping things not having a leader; and doom is made, and against-saying *is* more mighty.

<sup>4</sup> For this thing law is broken, and doom cometh not till to the end; for the unpious man hath might against the just, therefore wayward doom shall go out.

<sup>5</sup> Behold ye in heathen men, and see ye, and wonder ye, and greatly dread ye; for a work is done in your days, which no man shall believe, when it shall be told.

<sup>6</sup> For lo! I shall raise Chaldees, a bitter folk and swift, going on the breadth of earth, that he wield tabernacles not his.

<sup>7</sup> It is horrible, and dreadful; the doom and the burden thereof shall go out of itself.

<sup>8</sup> His horses *be* lighter than leopards, and swifter than eventide wolves, and his horsemen shall be scattered abroad; for why his horsemen

shall come from far; they shall fly as an eagle hasting to eat.

<sup>9</sup> All *these* men shall come to *or for* prey, the faces of them *is* as a burning wind; and he shall gather as gravel *the* captivity,

<sup>10</sup> and he shall have victory of kings, and tyrants shall be of his scorning. He shall laugh on all strength *or stronghold*, and shall bear together [*an*] heap of earth, and shall take it.

<sup>11</sup> Then the spirit [*of him*] shall be changed, and he shall pass forth, and fall down; this is the strength of him, of his god.

<sup>12</sup> Whether thou art not from the beginning, thou, Lord my God, mine Holy, and we shall not die? Lord, into doom thou hast set him, and thou groundedest him strong, that thou shouldest chastise.

<sup>13</sup> Thine eyes be clean, see thou not evil, and thou shalt not be able to behold to wickedness. Why beholdest thou not on men doing wickedly, and thou art still, while the unpius man devoureth a more just man than himself?

<sup>14</sup> And thou shalt make men as fishes of the sea, and as a creeping thing not having a prince.

<sup>15</sup> He shall lift up all in the hook; he drew it in his great net, and gathered into his net; on this thing he shall be glad, and make joy withoutforth.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore he shall offer to his great net, and shall make sacrifice to his net; for in them his part is made fat, and his meat *is* chosen.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore for this thing he spread-eth abroad his great net, and ever-more he ceaseth not for to slay folks.

## CHAPTER 2

<sup>1</sup> On my keeping I shall stand, and shall pitch my step on [*the*] warding; and I shall behold, that I see what thing shall be said to me, and what I shall answer to him that reproveth me.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord answered to me, and said, Write thou the sight, *either revelation*, and make it plain on tables, that he run, that shall read it.

<sup>3</sup> For yet the vision *is* far, and it shall appear into the end, and shall not lie; if it shall make dwelling, abide thou it, for it coming shall come, and shall not tarry.

<sup>4</sup> Lo! the soul of him, that is unbelievful, shall not be rightful [*or right*] in himself; forsooth the just man shall live in his faith.

<sup>5</sup> And as wine deceiveth a man drinking, so shall the proud man be, and he shall not be made fair; for as hell he alarged his soul, and he *is* as death, and he is not [*ful*] filled; and he shall gather to him all folks, and he shall gather together to him all peoples.

<sup>6</sup> Whether not all these *peoples* shall take a parable on him, and the speaking of dark sentences of him? And it shall be said, Woe to him that multiplieth things not his own; how long, and he aggregateth against himself thick clay?

<sup>7</sup> Whether not suddenly they shall rise together, that shall bite thee? And they shall be

raised tearing thee, and thou shalt be into raven to them; and thine ambushers *in evil* shall wake.

<sup>8</sup> For thou robbedest many folks, all shall rob thee, which shall be residue, *either left*, of peoples, for blood of man, and for wickedness of land, of the city, and of all men dwelling in it.

<sup>9</sup> Woe to him that gathereth evil covetousness to his house, that his nest be on high, and guesseth him for to be delivered of the hand of evil.

<sup>10</sup> Thou thoughtest confusion to thine house; thou hast slain many peoples, and thy soul sinned.

<sup>11</sup> For the stone of the wall shall cry, and a tree that is betwixt jointures of buildings shall answer.

<sup>12</sup> Woe to him that buildeth a city in bloods, and maketh ready a city in wickedness.

<sup>13</sup> Whether not these things be of the Lord of hosts? For peoples shall travail in much fire, and folks in vain, and they shall fail.

<sup>14</sup> For the earth shall be filled, that it know the glory of the Lord, as waters covering the sea.

<sup>15</sup> Woe to him that giveth drink to his friend, and sendeth his gall, and maketh drunken, that he behold his nakedness.

<sup>16</sup> He is filled with evil fame for glory; and thou drink, and be fast asleep; the cup of the right half of the Lord shall compass thee, and casting up, *either spewing*, of evil fame [*up*] on thy glory.

<sup>17</sup> For the wickedness of Lebanon shall cover thee, and [*the*] destruction of beasts shall make them afeared, of bloods of man, and of

wickedness of *[the]* land, and of the city, and of all men dwelling therein.

<sup>18</sup> What profiteth the graven image, for his maker engraved it, a welled thing together, and *[a]* false image? for the maker thereof hoped in *[the]* making, that he made dumb simulacra.

<sup>19</sup> Woe to him that saith to a tree, Wake thou; Rise thou, to a stone being still; whether he shall be able to teach? Lo! this *thing* is covered with gold and silver, and no spirit is in his entrails.

<sup>20</sup> Forsooth the Lord *is* in his holy temple, all earth be still from his face.

## CHAPTER 3

<sup>1</sup> *The prayer of Habakkuk, the prophet, for unknowing men.*

<sup>2</sup> Lord, I heard thy praising, and I dreaded; Lord, it is thy work, in the middle of years, quicken thou it. In the middle of years, thou shalt make *thyself* known; when thou shalt be wroth, thou shalt have mind of mercy.

<sup>3</sup> God shall come from the south, and the Holy from the mount of Paran. The glory of him covered heavens, and the earth is full of his praising.

<sup>4</sup> The shining of him shall be as light; with horns in the hands of him. There the strength of him was hid,

<sup>5</sup> death shall go before his face; the devil shall go out before his feet.

<sup>6</sup> He stood, and meted the earth; he beheld, and unbound folks, and hills of the world were

all-broken; the little hills of the world were bowed down, of the ways of his everlastingness.

<sup>7</sup> For wickedness I saw the tents of Ethiopia, the skins of the land of Midian shall be troubled.

<sup>8</sup> Lord, whether in floods thou art wroth, either in floods *is* thy strong vengeance, either in the sea *is* thine indignation? Which shalt ascend [*or go*] [*up*] on thine horses; and on thy four-horsed carts *is* salvation.

<sup>9</sup> Thou raising shalt raise thy bow, oaths to lineages which thou hast spoken; thou shalt part the floods of earth.

<sup>10</sup> Waters saw thee, and hills sorrowed, the gutter of waters passed; deepness gave his voice, highness raised his hands.

<sup>11</sup> The sun and moon stood in their dwelling place; in the light of thine arrows they shall go, in the shining of thy spear glistening.

<sup>12</sup> In gnashing thou shalt defoul earth, and in strong vengeance thou shalt astonish folks.

<sup>13</sup> Thou art gone out into health of thy people, into health with thy christ *or thine anointed*; thou hast smitten the head of the house of the unpius man, thou hast made naked the fundament till to the neck.

<sup>14</sup> Thou cursedest the sceptre, *either power*, of him, the head of his fighters, to men coming as whirlwind for to scatter me; *thou heardest* the joying withoutforth of them, as of him that devoureth a poor man in huddles.

<sup>15</sup> Thou madest a way in the sea to thine horses, in clay of many waters.

<sup>16</sup> I heard, and my womb is troubled altogether; my lips trembled altogether of the voice. Rot entered in[*to*] my bones, and sprang under me; that I rest again in the day of tribulation, and I shall go up to our people girded altogether.

<sup>17</sup> For the fig tree shall not flower, and burgeoning shall not be in vineyards; the work of [*the*] olive tree shall lie *down*, and fields shall not bring *forth* meat; a sheep shall be cut away from the fold, a drove shall not be in cratches.

<sup>18</sup> Forsooth I shall have joy in the Lord, and I shall make joy without-forth in God my Jesus *or my salvation*.

<sup>19</sup> God the Lord *is* my strength, and he shall put my feet as of harts; and [*up*] on mine high things, the over-comer shall lead forth me, singing in psalms.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "( )", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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