

*Jehovah will send the Chaldeans*

### CHAPTER 1

1 The burden at which Habakkuk,<sup>1</sup> the prophet, gazed.

2 How long, Oh Jehovah, have I called for help, and you do not attentively hear! I cry out to you, Violence, and you do not save!

3 Why do you cause me to see vanity, and cause me to look intently upon wearisome toil? And ravaging and violence are in front of me, and there exist controversy and contention lifted up.

4 Therefore the law is void of vital warmth, and judgment does not ever go forth, because the wicked enclose the righteous; therefore twisted judgment goes forth.

5 See among the peoples, and look intently, and be in consternation - consternation, because I will work a work in your days, *which* you will not believe, though it is tallied up to you.

6 Because lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, a bitter people and flowing like liquid which shall walk through the breadth of the land to possess the residences *that are* not theirs.

7 They *are* terrible and fearful; their judgment and their being raised up shall go out from themselves

8 And their horses are lighter than leopards, and are whetted sharper than the wolves of the dusk, and their horsemen

<sup>1</sup> 1:1 Habakkuk, Embraced, One Embraced (by God) or One Who Embraced (God)

*(Babylonians) to punish the sins of Judah*

shall spread out, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle hurrying to eat.

9 They all shall come for violence; their faces shall crowd together as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.

10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the honorable ones shall be a laughingstock to them; they shall laugh at every fortified city; and they shall heap up dust, and capture it.

11 Then his spirit shall change, and he shall cross over, and shall be guilty *of thinking* that his power *is* of his god.

12 *Are* you not from of old, Oh Jehovah, my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. Oh Jehovah, you have put them for judgment, and, Oh Strong Rock, you have set them up for setting it right.

13 *You are* of purer eyes than to see evil, and are not able to look with pleasure upon wearisome toil; why do you look with pleasure upon them who deal covertly, remaining silent when the wicked swallow up the one more righteous than he?

14 And make men as fish of the sea, as the creeping things, to whom *there is* no ruler?

15 They take up all of them with a hook; they drag them off in their net, and gather them in their net; therefore they rejoice and spin around with emotion.

**HABAKKUK 2** *The vision is for an appointed time; it shall breathe out its fulfillment; wait for it, it will not lag behind*

16 Therefore they sacrifice to their net, and burn perfumed incense to their net, because by them their allotment is robust, and their food plump.

17 Therefore they shall empty their net, and shall not spare in pity to continually strike fatally the peoples?

## CHAPTER 2

1 I will stand upon my watch, and station myself upon the mound, and will lean out to peer into the distance to see what he will speak to me, and what I shall turn back *to him* when I am rebuked.

2 And Jehovah answered me, and said, Write the vision, and engrave it upon tablets that he who runs may call it out,

3 Because the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, and at the end it shall breathe out *its fulfillment*, and not lie; though it holds back, wait<sup>3</sup> for it, because coming, it will come; it will not lag behind.

4 Behold, his soul which is swelled up is not upright in him, and the righteous shall live by his faith.

5 And also, because by wine he acts covertly; *he is* an arrogant mighty man, and does not rest at home, who enlarges his soul as the world of the dead, and he *is* as death, and cannot be filled to satisfaction, and gathers to himself all peoples, and grasps

<sup>3</sup> 2:3 wait, *chakah*, be pierced together with the Word of God so that you cannot move without it. See Note Isa 64:4.

to himself all people;

6 Shall not all these lift up a proverb against him, and a satirical riddle against him, and say, Woe to him who increases by *what is* not his! How long? And to him who makes himself heavy with what was pawned!

7 Shall they who shall bite you not rise up in a wink, and awake that which shall agitate you? And you shall be for plunder to them,

8 Because you have plundered many peoples, all those left of the peoples shall plunder you, because of men's blood, and because of the violence of the land, of the city, and of all who dwell there.

9 Woe to him who breaks off evil plunder to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be snatched out from the palm of evil!

10 You have counseled a shameful thing to your house by cutting off many people, and have sinned *against* your soul,

11 Because the stone shall scream out of the wall, and the beam shall answer it out of the timber.

12 Woe to him who builds a city with blood, and sets up a city by moral distortion!

13 Behold, *is it* not of Jehovah of hosts that the people shall gasp in toil in the very fire, and the peoples shall weary themselves for very vanity?

14 Because the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the heavy glory of Jehovah as the

*The bloodshed and idolatry of Babylon will be punished; Habakkuk's prayer for revival* **HABAKKUK 3**  
waters cover the sea.

15 Woe to him who gives drink to his neighbor, who scrapes out your skin bottle to him, and also makes him drunk, that you may look intently on their nakedness!

16 You are filled to satisfaction with disgrace for heavy glory; drink also, and let your foreskin be exposed; the cup of Jehovah's right hand shall be turned around to you, and intense disgrace *shall be* upon your heavy glory,

17 Because the violence of Lebanon shall cover you, and the ravaging of animals will break them down in fear, because of men's blood, and because of the violence of the land, of the city, and of all who dwell there.

18 What benefit *is* the carved idol since its former has carved it, a poured metal idol that causes a lie to flow, because the former of his work trusts in it, upon his making tongue-tied-good-for-nothings?

19 Woe to him who says to the wood, Wake up, Open your eyes! To the silent stone, It shall *cause knowledge* to flow! Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, and there *is* no Spirit at all in its midst.

20 And Jehovah *is* in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before his face.

### CHAPTER 3

1 A prayer of Habakkuk, the prophet, upon Shigionoth.<sup>2</sup>

2 Oh Jehovah, I have attentively heard your announcement; I feared; Oh Jehovah, revive your work in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years make known; in rumbling remember compassion.

3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Pause.* His glorious authority covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And his brightness *was* as the light; there were horns *coming* out of his hand; and there *was* the hiding of his power.

5 Before his face walked the destroying pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth; he saw, and shook the peoples, and the enduring mountains were dashed in pieces, the perpetual hills sunk down; his processions are everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of Cushan at the bottom of vanity, and the curtains of the land of Midian trembled.

8 Jehovah burned in anger against the rivers! Lo, were your *burning* nostrils against the rivers? Your wrath, against the sea? Because you rode upon your horses, your chariots of salvation!

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<sup>2</sup> 3:1 Shigionoth, A Rambling Poem.

### HABAKKUK 3

*The coming of Jehovah to judge the world*

9 Your bow *is* naked, bare; the tribes have sworn by your saying. *Pause.* You tore open the earth with rivers.

10 The mountains saw you, and they twisted around; the gushing of waters crossed over; the deep gave his voice, and lifted up his hands on high.

11 The sun *and the* moon stood still in their residence; at the light of your arrows they walked, and at the bright lightning of your spear.

12 You march in rage through the land; with *burning* nostrils you tread down the peoples.

13 You went out for the salvation of your people, for salvation with your Anointed; you crushed the head out of the house of the wicked, by making the foundation naked to the neck. *Pause.*

14 You punctured the head of his officers with his rods; they rushed out to dash me in pieces; their exultation *was* to devour him secretly who was looked down on with harshness.

15 You walked through the sea with your horses, the waves of great waters.

16 When I attentively heard, my belly was agitated; my lips quivered at the voice; rottenness came into my bones, and I was agitated in myself, that I might rest in the day of distress; when he ascends upon the people, he will crowd upon them.

17 Although the fig tree shall not bloom, and produce shall not be on the vines, the work of the

olive shall fail, and the fields shall not make food, the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls,

18 Yet I will jump for joy in Jehovah; I will spin around in emotion in the God of my salvation.

19 Jehovah the Lord *is* my resources, and he will put my feet like the feet of a deer, and he will cause me to walk upon my high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.