

Chapter #2

The Prophet Habakkuk

Time of ministry:

605-597 B.C.

This was to be the last period of freedom for the *Hebrew* people living in *Juda*, a time between the *Babylonian* victory at *Carchemish* and *Nebuchadnezzar's* invasion of *Juda* that will end with the fall, capture and destruction of *Jerusalem*.

Author:

The Prophet *Habakkuk* lived in the nation of *Juda*, aside from that fact we know truly little of his personal life. There are some items in his prophesy that would indicate that he was of a priestly line or teacher, *Habakkuk* had the use of *Hebrew worship* musicians for his time of worship.

Habakkuk 3:19; "To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments."

Habakkuk was living in *Juda* during the period that the Prophet *Jeremiah* was in *Juda* and may have known him. However, it was at a later point in time that the prophet *Jeremiah* gave his prophesy warning of *The LORD God's* coming *Righteous Judgement* on *Juda*.

Habakkuk whose name when translated to *English* is "*embrace*" did embrace *The LORD God* and *His* wisdom. The prophets recorded thoughts about *The LORD God's Judgement* and *Eternal Wisdom* are a vital key to understanding the *Enduring "True" Faith* of the prophet *Habakkuk*.

It is an *Inspirational Blessing* to read and learn how deep the *spiritual connection* and commitment of the prophet *Habakkuk* was to *Yahweh --- The LORD God*.

Prior to *Habakkuk's* calling by *God* to be a *Holy Prophet of God* the only spiritual guidance *Habakkuk* had was his knowledge of the *Hebrew teachings* in the text of the *Torah*, (*Devine law*; the first five books of the *Old Testament*).

By reading and studying *Habakkuk's* testimony containing his visions and conversations with *Father God* it becomes clear to the reader that he has a deep *Faith Belief* and *Trust* in *Yahweh's Eternal Wisdom* and his *Hebrew Religion*.

This *Deep Belief* and *Unwavering Faith* was *Habakkuk's "Rock of Hope"* we must remember that his strong "*Faith*" was fortified with only the "*Promise*" of a coming *Messiah*, the *Awaited Deliverer* of the *Jews!*

Unlike the people living in the times of the *Old Testament* we as modern-day *Christian Believers* have the teachings of the *Holy Bible* that includes the *New Testament*.

We have *The Good News* that *The New Testament "Truth"* deliver to us, the *Glorious Blessing* of a *Resurrected and Living Messiah --- The LORD, Jesus Christ!*

We are *Blessed* with the *Redemptive Testimony* of *Jesus Christ our LORD*, and *Savior* who *Lovingly* gave us *Eternal Life* with *His Death on the cross* and *His Miraculous Resurrection!* *Jesus Christ's Love-Gift* was a "*Sinless*" *Blood Sacrifice* to *Redeem* our *sinful lives* with *His Sinless Blood*, guaranteeing that all mankind can gain *Father God's "Grace"* (*The Unmerited and totally Unearned forgiveness of all sin*).

This is the *Glorious* gift of a "*Life*" that is filled with *Eternal Peace* and rest, a gift the *unsaved sinners* of the world will *never know!*

The Prophecy:

This painful Prophecy from *The LORD God* is a song of mourning, a *lament* (A funeral song) for the sad and *frightening fate* of all who *sin* and will not “*Repent*” (Turn away from a life of sin) and in doing so choose *Life over death!*

Habakkuk was according to most *Bible* Historians the first prophet of *The LORD God* to ask the questions; Why did *The LORD God* choose to hold back *His* corrective Judgement and not act sooner to stop the *sinful acts* of Juda and Israel?

Then when *Father God* did use *His Unlimited Power* to stop the *sinful acts* of Juda and Israel, why did the *sinless* and *All-Knowing God* choose to use *unrepentant Babylonian Gentile sinners* to do *His* work of *Judgmental* and *Corrective Punishment* of Juda and Israel?

Habakkuk 1:1–4 (NLT)

This is the message that the prophet Habakkuk received in a vision.

Habakkuk’s Complaint

² *How long, O LORD, must I call for help?*

But you do not listen!

“Violence is everywhere!” I cry,

but you do not come to save.

³ *Must I forever see these evil deeds?*

Why must I watch all this misery?

Wherever I look,

I see destruction and violence.

I am surrounded by people

who love to argue and fight.

⁴ *The law has become paralyzed,*

and there is no justice in the courts.

The wicked far outnumber the righteous,

so that justice has become perverted.

Comments on Habakkuk 1:1-4:

In Habakkuk’s book of prophecy, we are gifted with *Yahweh’s* words of *Spiritual Wisdom*.

This book of prophecy is a *Genuine Blessing*, the *spiritual* opportunity to be part of a *two-way* conversation between the prophet Habakkuk and *Father God*.

The prophet Habakkuk asks why has *The All-Knowing God* been so slow to bring *Corrective action* to change the *sinful ways* of Juda and its Kings?

Why does *Father God* not listen to the *cries* for help from *His* people who are being subjected to *unjust laws*? Laws the *spiritually blind* Hebrew religious leaders have imposed to control the Hebrew people, then gain for themselves *unearned* power and wealth.

The *sinful* Hebrew religious leaders have used the *unjust laws* of “*man*” to pervert the “*Written Law*” of *Father God*.

Was “*The One and Only Eternal God*” willing to let Juda and her *sinful* people worship *Idols and false gods* by making *sinful offerings* to them?

Will Habakkuk’s calls for *God’s Righteous Justice* bring about the end of Juda’s *evil deeds*, or will his questions be ignored by *Father God*?

Will the *sinful* citizens of Juda who are demonstrating by the “*Disobedient*” way they live a total *Disregard* of *Father God’s “Holy Law”* go --- *unpunished*?

Psalm 10:10–14 (NLT)

Arise, O LORD!

*¹⁰ Their helpless victims are crushed;
they fall beneath the strength of the wicked.*

*¹¹ The wicked think, “God isn’t watching us!
He has closed his eyes and won’t even see what we do!”*

¹² Arise, O LORD!

*Punish the wicked, O God!
Do not ignore the helpless!*

*¹³ Why do the wicked get away with despising God?
They think, “God will never call us to account.”*

*¹⁴ But you see the trouble and grief they cause.
You take note of it and punish them.*

*The helpless put their trust in you.
You defend the orphans.*

Habakkuk 1:5–11 (NLT)

The LORD’s Reply

*⁵ The LORD replied, “Look around at the nations;
look and be amazed!*

*For I am doing something in your own day,
something you wouldn’t believe
even if someone told you about it.*

*⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians,
a cruel and violent people.*

*They will march across the world
and conquer other lands.*

*⁷ They are notorious for their cruelty
and do whatever they like.*

*⁸ Their horses are swifter than cheetahs
and fiercer than wolves at dusk.*

Their charioteers charge from far away.

Like eagles, they swoop down to devour their prey.

⁹ *“On they come, all bent on violence.*

*Their hordes advance like a desert wind,
sweeping captives ahead of them like sand.*

¹⁰ *They scoff at kings and princes*

and scorn all their fortresses.

*They simply pile ramps of earth
against their walls and capture them!*

¹¹ *They sweep past like the wind*

and are gone.

*But they are deeply guilty,
for their own strength is their god.”*

Comments on Habakkuk 1:5-11:

The LORD God answers Habakkuk’s questions by informing him that “Swift” Violent Judgement will come. Yahweh was preparing the cruel Babylonians as a tool “A rod of Righteous Judgement” to punish the sinful and Unfaithful Hebrews in Juda.

All the sinful Hebrews living in Juda will be Judged severely for “Perverting” (Changing the Truth to a Lie) the Holy law of Father God changing it by adding “man’s” law to Father God’s Law.

Proverbs 30:5–6 (NLT)

Do Not Become a Liar!

⁵ *Every word of God proves true.*

He is a shield to all who come to him for protection

⁶ *Do not add to his words,*

or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.

Deuteronomy 4:1–2 (NLT)

Moses Urges Israel to Obey

“And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ² Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you.

The shocking information of the coming “Swift” Righteous Judgement of Juda at the hands and swords of the sinful Gentile Babylonians was very confusing and disturbing, Truly Unsettling for the prophet Habakkuk.

We will read later in *verse 11*; Father God explains that the sinful Babylonians will eventually be held in Final Judgement for their murderous destruction of Juda and Israel.

The highest valued and worshiped “god” the Babylonians have is the sinful worship of their own

power and strength, (*which is an Idol*) this *Idol* worshiping *sin* will bring them “*Sudden*” *Death and Destruction!*

Habakkuk 1:12–17 (NLT)

Habakkuk’s Second Complaint

¹² *O LORD my God, my Holy One, you who are eternal—
surely you do not plan to wipe us out?*

*O LORD, our Rock, you have sent these Babylonians to correct us,
to punish us for our many sins.*

¹³ *But you are pure and cannot stand the sight of evil.*

Will you wink at their treachery?

Should you be silent while the wicked

swallow up people more righteous than they?

¹⁴ *Are we only fish to be caught and killed?*

Are we only sea creatures that have no leader?

¹⁵ *Must we be strung up on their hooks*

and caught in their nets while they rejoice and celebrate?

¹⁶ *Then they will worship their nets*

and burn incense in front of them.

“These nets are the gods who have made us rich!”

they will claim.

¹⁷ *Will you let them get away with this forever?*

Will they succeed forever in their heartless conquests?

Comments on Habakkuk 1:12-17:

The prophet Habakkuk asks if *Father God* plans to use the Babylonians to “*Wipe Out*” or just *Punish and Correct* the people of *Juda* calling *Father God* “*Our Rock*”, will *Yahweh* be *The Rock of Salvation* for *Juda*?

The prophet has a hard time understanding why *The LORD God* who is without *sin* would use the *sinful Gentiles* of *Babylonia* to punish *His own “Chosen People”* (The Jews) who were not as *sinful* as the pagan Babylonians.

The prophet Habakkuk was thinking just like most of the people in *Juda* and *Israel* who *Failed* to understand that *The LORD, Yahweh* is a “*Just*” and *Holy God*; He must be the ---“*Eternal Keeper of Justice*”!

All the *Unrepentant Sinners Jew and Gentile* must be under the same law and the same punishment for not “*Obeying*” the “*Holy Law*” of the *Eternal God* --- *Yahweh*!

The *sinful* Babylonians were used like a tool by *Father God*, being *sinful* they must eventually be *Judged* by *God* for *worshiping* their murderous hate filled “*Evil Power*” as an --- *Idol*!

When something you have or want becomes an *overpowering “Obsession”*, something that you “*Have to Have*” that object person or goal has become an *Idol* a “*false god*”.

This “*Have to Have*” way of self-centered materialistic living is always a *sin* in the eyes of the “*Totally Sinless*” *One and Only* --- *LORD, Father God*!

Habakkuk 2:1 (NLT) Habakkuk Waits for God's Response

¹ *I will climb up to my watchtower
and stand at my guardpost.*

*There I will wait to see what the LORD says
and how he will answer my complaint.*

Comments on Habakkuk 2:1:

The prophet *Habakkuk* is a man of “*Total*” Faith and Trust in *The LORD God*, he will wait for the answer to his questions, he is like a *good soldier* who “*Stands Watch*” at his *guard post*.

The big lesson we should learn from the prophet *Habakkuk* is to always “*Wait*” on *The LORD* and not try to understand a problem or accomplish our goals with our own *wisdom power* or *strengths*.

Psalm 25:4–5 (NLT)

Teach Me LORD!

⁴ *Show me the right path, O LORD;
point out the road for me to follow.*

⁵ *Lead me by your truth and teach me,
for you are the God who saves me.
All day long I put my hope in you.*

Habakkuk 2:2–3 (NLT)

The LORD's Second Reply

² *Then the LORD said to me,*

*“Write my answer plainly on tablets,
so that a runner can carry the correct message to others.*

³ *This vision is for a future time.
It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled.*

*If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently,
for it will surely take place.*

It will not be delayed.

Comments on Habakkuk 2:2-3:

The *Second Reply* from *The LORD God* is a vision of things to come, *Yahweh* proclaims that all the prophetic visions will be fulfilled at *His “Chosen Time”* in the future.

This book of prophesy is written with the same *Time-Layered* construction as other prophetic books of *Wisdom* and *Instruction* in *The Holy Bible*.

The first event to take place on this *timeline* will be the Judgement of the *Unrepentant sinful Jews* in *Juda* and *Israel*, followed by the *Destructive* end of the *Babylonians* who have with great

joy captured and killed Father God's Chosen People.

The LORD God is not Restricted and Confined in the movement of time as we are, for Yahweh it is always "Now" with no Past or Present. We as flesh and blood humans in our physical body can only see time in a straight-line, The "Eternal" Father God see all time as --- One Event.

Psalm 33:6–9 (NLT) He Merely Spoke!

⁶ *The LORD merely spoke,
and the heavens were created.*

*He breathed the word,
and all the stars were born.*

⁷ *He assigned the sea its boundaries
and locked the oceans in vast reservoirs.*

⁸ *Let the whole world fear the LORD,
and let everyone stand in awe of him.*

⁹ *For when he spoke, the world began!
It appeared at his command.*

This *Second Reply* also tells of the coming future event that will surely take place, *The Day of The LORD "The End Times of The Earth"* this will be the time of *Final Judgement* for all *Unrepentant sinful* mankind by --- *The Lion of Juda!*

This prediction by Yahweh "*The Eternal God*" is to be recorded on a stone tablet as a pledge sealed with *Father God's Name*, and this document will at a later time stand as a *witness* to add "*Veracity*" (truthfulness; verity; correctness; precision) to its *Truth* and *Origin*.

NOTE: Could this tablet be the little book mentioned in Revelation 10:1-11?

As readers of this part of the prophesy we are told to be *Patient* and "*Trust*", we have *The Eternal LORD God's "Pledge" His Word* etched in stone that the future events will take place.

Habakkuk 2:4–20 (NLT)

The LORD's Second Reply

⁴ *"Look at the proud!*

*They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked.
But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.*

⁵ *Wealth is treacherous,
and the arrogant are never at rest.*

*They open their mouths as wide as the grave,
and like death, they are never satisfied.*

*In their greed they have gathered up many nations
and swallowed many peoples.*

⁶ *"But soon their captives will taunt them.*

*They will mock them, saying,
'What sorrow awaits you thieves!*

*Now you will get what you deserve!
You've become rich by extortion,
but how much longer can this go on?
7 Suddenly, your debtors will take action.*

*They will turn on you and take all you have,
while you stand trembling and helpless.
8 Because you have plundered many nations;
now all the survivors will plunder you.
You committed murder throughout the countryside
and filled the towns with violence.*

*9 "What sorrow awaits you who build big houses
with money gained dishonestly!
You believe your wealth will buy security,
putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger.
10 But by the murders you committed,
you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.
11 The very stones in the walls cry out against you,
and the beams in the ceilings echo the complaint.*

*12 "What sorrow awaits you who build cities
with money gained through murder and corruption!*

*13 Has not the LORD of Heaven's Armies promised
that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes?
They work so hard,
but all in vain!*

*14 For as the waters fill the sea,
the earth will be filled with an awareness
of the glory of the LORD.*

Note on verses #12 - 14: This part The LORD'S second reply seems to foretell The End Times "The Revelation" when the LORD God Jesus Christ returns to the earth. When "The Eternal Light" of His Glory will fill the earth with Pure Light!

*15 "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk!
You force your cup on them
so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness.
16 But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced.
Come, drink and be exposed!
Drink from the cup of the LORD's judgment,
and all your glory will be turned to shame.
17 You cut down the forests of Lebanon.
Now you will be cut down.
You destroyed the wild animals,*

*so now their terror will be yours.
You committed murder throughout the countryside
and filled the towns with violence.*

¹⁸ *“What good is an idol carved by man,
or a cast image that deceives you?
How foolish to trust in your own creation—
a god that can’t even talk!*

¹⁹ *What sorrow awaits you who say to wooden idols,
‘Wake up and save us!’
To speechless stone images you say,
‘Rise up and teach us!’
Can an idol tell you what to do?*

*They may be overlaid with gold and silver,
but they are lifeless inside.*

²⁰ *But the LORD is in his holy Temple.
Let all the earth be silent before him.”*

Comments on Habakkuk 2:2-20:

In *The LORD’S Second Reply* to Habakkuk’s questions, we read that *Father God’s Warnings and Corrective Instructions* are to be recorded on “*tablets*” (written scrolls) so that the words of *God’s warning* could be quickly repeated to all the citizens of Juda.

This warning from *Father God* was written in a poetic form, “*Hebrew parallelism*” (A style of writing where adjacent lines or phrases contrast or compare ideas or actions to expose how the actions or ideas are in alignment with *Father God’s Law* or how they are counter to His Law.)

As an example, we read in *verse #4*; how the proud “*Trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked*” --- they are filled with sin!

Then in the next line as a Hebrew poet would say, “*On the other hand.*” “*The righteous will live by their faithfulness to God*”!

The *Righteous* Hebrew men and women know the “*Law*” and then live by and follow *Father God’s Law*.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

Live by Faith!

⁶ *And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*

This method of Hebrew parallelism provides an *obvious contrast* of how the *Unrepentant sinner* lives his or her life, compared to how a “*True Believer*” lives his or her life, their “*born-again life*” is a *Life of Faith and Trust* in *The LORD, Father God*, and --- *His Law*.

This *Powerful Wisdom* and “*Law*” were provided to the *Jews* living in *Juda and Israel*, because this *Wisdom* was recorded in the words of the *Torah* (The first five books of the Old Testament).

The *Eternal* words of *Wisdom* “*Law*” and *Instruction* in the *Old Testament* included the *Ten Commandments* that *Moses* received from *The LORD, Father God* on *Mount Sinai*.

Exodus 34:28 (NLT)

The Ten Commandments!

²⁸ *Moses remained there on the mountain with the LORD forty days and forty nights. In all that time he ate no bread and drank no water. And the LORD wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets.*

The “*Covenant Law*” of *Father God* was provided for the Jews living in *Juda*. They all had the opportunity to hear read know and then “*Trust*” the *Correct “Faith Directed” Path* they should follow.

Deuteronomy 1:29–33 (NLT)

Trust and Faith!

²⁹ *“But I said to you, ‘Don’t be shocked or afraid of them!’³⁰ The LORD your God is going ahead of you. He will fight for you, just as you saw him do in Egypt.³¹ And you saw how the LORD your God cared for you all along the way as you traveled through the wilderness, just as a father cares for his child. Now he has brought you to this place.’*

³² *“But even after all he did, you refused to trust the LORD your God,³³ who goes before you looking for the best places to camp, guiding you with a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.*

Today all the men and women *wandering* in the *wilderness* of this lost and confused world can find the same “*True*” *Faith building instruction* recorded in *The Holy Bibles Old Testament and New Testament*. They are *The Holy books* of instruction that contain the *Ten Commandments* and the *only path to Redemption --- The Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

Romans 5:1–2 (NLT)

Faith Brings Joy!

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

This *Promised Truth* of our future *Peace and Glory* allows us to live by *Faith* as *True Believers in Jesus Christ*. We can all live *Protected* by the “*Redemptive Power*” of “*Repentant*” *mankind’s Maisha --- Jesus Christ*.

Trusting that the *Power of Father God’s “Grace”* (the unearned and totally unmerited forgiveness of all sin) will remove all our *sins* with the *Life-Giving gift of His Son’s --- Sinless Blood!*

We have been *Blessed Recreated, “Born Again”* as *True Children of Abraham, the Chosen People of Father God, grafted into the “True Vine”* with the --- *Sinless Blood of Jesus Christ!*

Romans 11:11–24 (NLT)

Grafted In!

¹¹ *Did God’s people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves.* ¹² *Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God’s offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.*

¹³ *I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this,* ¹⁴ *for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them.* ¹⁵ *For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!* ¹⁶ *And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.*

¹⁷ *But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree.* ¹⁸ *But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.*

¹⁹ *“Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.”* ²⁰ *Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn’t believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don’t think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen.*

²¹ *For if God did not spare the original branches, he won’t spare you either.*

²² *Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.* ²³ *And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree.* ²⁴ *You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.*

The same *Eternal Truth* of “*Salvation by Faith*” was available to the people of Juda if they would *Repent* and turn away from a life of *sin!*

The *LORD God* continues by warning the *sinful* that soon the people of Juda will pay for all their evil deeds and *sinful acts* of unlawful greed and murderous thievery.

The powerful and rich men and women who live in Juda will become the victims of the same acts of *sinful* greed and plunder they use to control others. The *sinful control* they gained with man’s laws that are not part of --- *Father God’s law*.

The people of Juda will be powerless to stop the *Gentile Babylonian invaders* destruction of the material world they have *sinfully worshiped* as a --- *false god*.

Today in our modern world all *Unrepentant sinful mankind* fails to understand that the *plundered material wealth* they acquire by *theft* and *greed* will be consumed and destroyed by

the *White-Hot Fire* of “*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*” --- *The Glorious Return of The Lion of Juda, The LORD Jesus Christ!*

Only the *Faithful “Believers”* of “*His Church*” (the Repentant sinners) will be “*Saved*” *Protected* and *Removed* from this *earth-shattering “End Times”* event of --- *Final Righteous Judgement!*

Father God warns the *Foolish sinful Jews* and the *Gentile Babylonian invaders*, do not “*Trust*” your *man-made idols* and *false gods* to “*Protect*” you from the coming *Righteous Judgement* of *God*.

The *sinful Unrepentant* men and women will be as *Powerless* as the *lifeless idols* and *false gods* they worship, both will be “*Speechless*” as they fall on their faces in “*Terror*” at *The LORD God’s feet!*

Isaiah 44:9–11 (NLT)

The Foolishness of Idols!

⁹ *How foolish are those who manufacture idols.*

These prized objects are really worthless.

*The people who worship idols don’t know this,
so they are all put to shame.*

¹⁰ *Who but a fool would make his own god—
an idol that cannot help him one bit?*

¹¹ *All who worship idols will be disgraced
along with all these craftsmen—mere humans—
who claim they can make a god.*

*They may all stand together,
but they will stand in terror and shame.*

Habakkuk 3:1–8 (NLT)

The Plea to YAHWEH for Deliverance

Habakkuk’s Prayer

This prayer was sung by the prophet Habakkuk:

² *I have heard all about you, LORD.*

I am filled with awe by your amazing works.

In this time of our deep need,

help us again as you did in years gone by.

And in your anger,

remember your mercy.

³ *I see God moving across the deserts from Edom,
the Holy One coming from Mount Paran.*

*His brilliant splendor fills the heavens,
and the earth is filled with his praise.*

⁴ *His coming is as brilliant as the sunrise.*

Rays of light flash from his hands,

where his awesome power is hidden.

⁵ *Pestilence marches before him;
plague follows close behind.*

⁶ *When he stops, the earth shakes.
When he looks, the nations tremble.
He shatters the everlasting mountains
and levels the eternal hills.
He is the Eternal One!*

⁷ *I see the people of Cushan in distress,
and the nation of Midian trembling in terror.*

⁸ *Was it in anger, LORD, that you struck the rivers
and parted the sea?
Were you displeased with them?
No, you were sending your chariots of salvation!*

Comments on Habakkuk 3:1-8:

The last chapter of the book of Habakkuk *Chapter #3* contains the prophet's personal song of praise to *The Eternal Father God*. This praise song also contains Habakkuk's *heartfelt plea* for the *Never-Ending Mercy of The LORD God!*

The recorded historical works of *Protection and Provision "Lovingly"* provided to the Hebrews *Father God's Chosen People* are recorded in the *Bible's Old and New Testament*.

Both books contain the numerous miraculous divine acts of delivered *Protection and Provision* by *Father God*. The works are remembered in the prayer by the prophet Habakkuk as --- *"Father God's Amazing Works"!*

Psalm 9:9-10 (NLT)

Pray to God!

⁹ *The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.*

¹⁰ *Those who know your name trust in you,
for you, O LORD, do not abandon those who search for you.*

Habakkuk tells of his vision of *The Eternal God* moving across the land like a *"Brilliant Sunrise"* with light *"Flashing"* out of *His* hands like *"Lightening"* filling the heavens and the earth with *His Splendor!*

This movement across the land is also filled with *His Righteous Judgement* of pestilence and plagues. *His powerful* movement causes the *sinful and Unrepentant nations* to tremble in *Terror!*

The prophet proclaims that this *Judgement* is part of *Father God's* plan of *Salvation*, this *Refining Fire* must be used to *Burn Away* all that is not --- *Pure!*

Father God is not *"Destroying"* the earth or *His Chosen People*, He is *Reforming* and *Restoring* the world to *His original Undefined Condition*.

This *Biblical* prophecy has two levels of time, the first period is the *Judgement* punishment and

partial destruction of *The Chosen People of God* “*The Jews*” including the *displacement* of the Jews out of *The Land of Promise*.

At the appointed time when the *destructive actions* of the Babylon’s on the citizens Juda are *completed* Father God will Judge and *Destroy* the Babylonians for their *Wicked sinful* ways.

The second time period event will happen at an “*unknown*” later period of time.

This event will be the “*End*” of the earth as we know it; It will be *The Great Tribulation*, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, and the *Righteous Judgement* of the *Unsaved World* by *The LORD, Jesus Christ!*

This coming “*End Times*” period of our world will be crowned off with a *Beautifully Dressed Bride*, the *Glorious Coming* of --- *The New Jerusalem!*

Revelation 21:1–3 (NLT)

The New Jerusalem!

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

Habakkuk 3:9–19 (NLT)

This is the Time of Judgement!

*⁹ You brandished your bow
and your quiver of arrows.*

You split open the earth with flowing rivers.

¹⁰ The mountains watched and trembled.

Onward swept the raging waters.

The mighty deep cried out,

lifting its hands in submission.

¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in the sky

as your brilliant arrows flew

and your glittering spear flashed.

¹² You marched across the land in anger

and trampled the nations in your fury.

¹³ You went out to rescue your chosen people,

to save your anointed ones.

You crushed the heads of the wicked

and stripped their bones from head to toe.

¹⁴ With his own weapons,

you destroyed the chief of those

who rushed out like a whirlwind,

thinking Israel would be easy prey.

¹⁵ *You trampled the sea with your horses,
and the mighty waters piled high.*

¹⁶ *I trembled inside when I heard this;
my lips quivered with fear.*

*My legs gave way beneath me,
and I shook in terror.*

*I will wait quietly for the coming day
when disaster will strike the people who invade us.*

¹⁷ *Even though the fig trees have no blossoms,
and there are no grapes on the vines;
even though the olive crop fails,
and the fields lie empty and barren;*

*even though the flocks die in the fields,
and the cattle barns are empty,*

¹⁸ *yet I will rejoice in the LORD!
I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!*

¹⁹ *The Sovereign LORD is my strength!
He makes me as surefooted as a deer,
able to tread upon the heights.*

(For the choir director: This prayer is to be accompanied by stringed instruments.)

Comments on Habakkuk 3:9-19: This is the Time of Judgement!

The prophet Habakkuk records in the final part of his prophesy all the “*Frightening*” pain death and destruction that will be delivered to the *Children of Abraham* and their *sinful* Gentile enemies.

The prophet feels his body “*Quake*” and *Tremble* in fear as he hears the sounds of the Babylonian army’s coming attack. Habakkuk finds it hard to stand, his legs are *weak* and *unsteady* from the “*Terror*” he knows is coming.

Even as his flesh “*Trembles*” in fear the prophet Habakkuk takes his *Strength* and *Comfort* in *The LORD God*’.

Then the prophet *Calmly* awaits “*The Day of Anguish*” knowing all the *Destruction* *Death* *Starvation*, and *Pain* that will come to the *Hebrew* people of *Juda*.

Habakkuk has the comforting “*Peace*” of a *Redemptive Faith* in *Father God*; with this *Joyful* “*Faith*” the prophet will *Rejoice* in the *Salvation* of his *Savior* --- *Yahweh*!

Habakkuk’s *Faith* and “*Spiritual*” *Strength* is genuine because it is constructed on *Solid Rock*, *The Eternal* “*Rock of Salvation*” --- *Yahweh*!

This internal “*Faith*” *filled* place of *Peace* and *Protection* will cause him to “*Dance*” like a surefooted deer on the edge of cliff with great “*Joy*” even in the face of *Destruction* and possible *Death*.

Psalm 108:1–5 (NLT)

Thank You LORD!

- ¹ *My heart is confident in you, O God;
no wonder I can sing your praises with all my heart!*
- ² *Wake up, lyre and harp!
I will wake the dawn with my song.*
- ³ *I will thank you, LORD, among all the people.
I will sing your praises among the nations.*
- ⁴ *For your unfailing love is higher than the heavens.
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.*
- ⁵ *Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens.
May your glory shine over all the earth.*

Every day we must *Pray* and thank *Father God* for *His Faithfulness Love* and *Grace*, because through *His "Grace"* (the unearned and totally unmerited forgiveness of all sin) we can all become --- *Children of Abraham!*