**The Book of Habakkuk**

**Habakkuk Chapter 1**

1The burden that Habakkuk the prophet saw.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | Yahweh, how long will I cry out for help,  and you will not hear?  I cry out to you “Violence!”  yet you do not save. |
| 3 | Why do you make me see iniquity  and look at wrongdoing?  For destruction and violence are before me.  Strife is ongoing, and contention rises up. |
| 4 | Therefore the law is paralyzed,  and justice is never carried out.  For the wicked surround the righteous,  so justice comes out perverted. |
| 5 | “Look among the nations! Watch!  Wonder and be amazed!  For I am working a work in your days  that you would not believe  though it was told to you. |
| 6 | For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,  that bitter and hasty nation,  who march through the width of the earth  to seize dwelling places that are not theirs. |
| 7 | They are dreaded and feared;  their views of justice and their authority  proceed from themselves. |
| 8 | Their horses also are swifter than leopards,  and are more fierce than the evening wolves.  Their horsemen press proudly on.  Yes, their horsemen come from afar.  They fly like an eagle that hurries to devour. |
| 9 | All of them come for violence,  all their faces are forward.  They gather captives like sand. |
| 10 | And they mock at kings,  and rulers are a laughing matter to them.  They laugh at every fortress,  for they build up an earthen ramp and capture it. |
| 11 | Then they sweep by like the wind,  and go on.  They are indeed guilty *people*, whose strength is their god.” |
| 12 | Aren’t you from everlasting,  Yahweh my God, my Holy One?  We will not die.  Yahweh, you have appointed them for judgment.  You, Rock, have established them to punish. |
| 13 | You who have eyes that are too pure to see evil,  and who cannot look at iniquity,  why do you look *favorably* upon those who deal treacherously?  And *why* do you keep silent  when the wicked swallow up  those who are more righteous than themselves? |
| 14 | *Why* have you made humankind  like the fish of the sea,  like the creeping things that have no ruler over them? |
| 15 | The Chaldeans take all of them up with a hook.  They catch them in their net  and gather them in their dragnet;  so they rejoice and are glad. |
| 16 | Therefore they sacrifice to their net,  and burn incense to their dragnet,  because by these things their portion is fat and their food is plentiful. |
| 17 | Will they therefore continually empty their net,  and kill the nations without mercy? |

**Habakkuk Chapter 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | I will stand at my guard post  and station myself on the watchtower,  and will look out to see what he will say to me,  and what I will answer concerning my complaint. |

2Yahweh answered me,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | “Write the vision  and make it plain on tablets,  that he who runs may read it. |
| 3 | For the vision is yet for the appointed time,  and it hurries toward the end, and will not prove false.  Though it takes time, wait for it,  because it will surely come. It will not delay. |
| 4 | Behold, his soul is puffed up.  It is not upright in him,  but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness. |
| 5 | Indeed, furthermore, wine betrays  an arrogant man so that he does not stay at home.  He enlarges his appetite like Sheol,  and like death, he cannot be satisfied,  but gathers all nations to himself,  and collects to himself all peoples.” |
| 6 | Won’t all these take up a taunt against him,  and a mocking poem *and* riddles against him,  and say,  “Woe to him who amasses what is not his—  for how long?—  and who enriches himself by *keeping* goods taken as a pledge!” |
| 7 | Will not your creditors rise up suddenly  and those who make you tremble wake up?  Indeed, you will be their plunder. |
| 8 | Because you have looted many nations,  all the remnant of the peoples will loot you,  because of human bloodshed  and the violence done to the land, to the city  and to all who live in it. |
| 9 | Woe to him who gets  evil gain for his household,  to set his nest on high  to be delivered from the hand of evil! |
| 10 | By cutting off many peoples  you have planned shame for your household  and have sinned against your soul. |
| 11 | For the stone will cry out of the wall,  and the beam out of the woodwork will answer it. |
| 12 | Woe to him who builds a town with blood  and establishes a city by iniquity! |
| 13 | Behold, is it not from Yahweh of Armies  that the peoples labor *only* to fuel the fire,  and the nations weary themselves for nothing? |
| 14 | For the earth will be filled  with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh  as the waters cover the sea. |
| 15 | “Woe to you who makes his neighbors drink,  pouring out your wrath  and making them drunk,  so that you may gaze at their genitals! |
| 16 | You will be filled with shame, and not glory.  Drink, you yourself, and expose your uncircumcision!  The cup in Yahweh’s right hand will come around to you,  and disgrace will cover your glory. |
| 17 | For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you,  as will the destruction of the animals that terrified them;  because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land,  to every city and to those who live in them. |
| 18 | Of what value is a carved idol when its maker has carved it?  *Or* a cast image—a teacher of lies—that the one who fashions its form trusts in it  and goes on making *those* mute, Worthless Ones. |
| 19 | Woe to him who says to the wood, ‘Wake up!’  Or to the mute stone, ‘Arise!’  Can it teach?  Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver,  but there is no breath at all inside it. |
| 20 | But Yahweh is in his holy Temple.  Let all the earth be silent before him!” |

**Habakkuk Chapter 3**

1A prayer of Habakkuk, the prophet, according to Shigionoth.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 2 | Yahweh, I have heard the report about you,  *and* I fear, O Yahweh.  Revive your work in the midst of these years.  In the midst of these years make it known.  In wrath, remember *to show* mercy. |
| 3 | God came from Teman,  the Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*.  His splendor covered the heavens  and his praise filled the earth. |
| 4 | His brightness was like the sunrise.  Rays *flashed* from his hand,  and that is where his power is hidden. |
| 5 | Pestilence went before him  and plague followed at his feet. |
| 6 | He stood, and shook the earth.  He looked, and made the nations tremble.  The ancient mountains were shattered.  The age-old hills collapsed.  His ways are everlasting. |
| 7 | I saw the tents of Cushan in distress.  The *tent* curtains of the land of Midian trembled. |
| 8 | Was Yahweh displeased with the rivers?  Was your anger against the rivers,  or your wrath against the sea,  that you rode on your horses,  on your chariots of salvation? |
| 9 | You uncovered your bow.  You called for your sworn arrows. *Selah*.  You split the earth with rivers. |
| 10 | The mountains saw you and were afraid.  The storm of waters passed by.  The deep roared  and lifted up its hands on high. |
| 11 | The sun and moon stood still in the sky  at the light of your arrows as they went,  at the shining of your glittering spear. |
| 12 | You marched through the land in wrath.  You threshed the nations in anger. |
| 13 | You went forth for the salvation of your people,  for the salvation of your anointed.  You crushed the head of the land of wickedness.  You stripped them head to foot. *Selah*. |
| 14 | You pierced the heads of his warriors  with their own spears.  They came as a whirlwind to scatter me,  gloating as if to devour the wretched in secret. |
| 15 | You trampled the sea with your horses,  churning mighty waters. |
| 16 | I heard, and my body trembled.  My lips quivered at the sound.  Rottenness enters into my bones,  and I tremble in my place,  because I must wait quietly for the day of trouble,  for the coming up of the people who invade us. |
| 17 | For though the fig tree does not flourish,  and there is no fruit on the vines,  *though* the yield of the olive fails,  and the fields yield no food,  *and* the flocks are cut off from the fold,  and there is no herd in the stalls, |
| 18 | yet I will rejoice in Yahweh.  I will be joyful in the God of my salvation! |
| 19 | Yahweh the Lord is my strength.  He makes my feet like deer’s feet,  and enables me to go in high places. |

For the music director, on my stringed instruments.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |