



HABAKKUK



WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE | AMERICAN EDITION

HABAKKUK

1

¹The revelation which Habakkuk the prophet saw. ²Yahweh,[†] how long will I cry, and you will not hear? I cry out to you “Violence!” and will you not save? ³Why do you show me iniquity, and look at perversity? For destruction and violence are before me. There is strife, and contention rises up. ⁴Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails; for the wicked surround the righteous; therefore justice comes out perverted.

⁵“Look among the nations, watch, and wonder marvelously; for I am working a work in your days which you will not believe though it is told you. ⁶For, behold,[‡] I am raising up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation who march through the width of the earth, to possess dwelling places that are not theirs. ⁷They are feared and dreaded. Their judgment and their dignity proceed from themselves. ⁸Their 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 as an eagle that hurries to devour. ⁹All of them come for violence. Their hordes face forward. They gather prisoners like sand. ¹⁰Yes, they scoff at kings, and princes are a derision to them. They laugh at every stronghold, for they build up an earthen ramp and take it. ¹¹Then they sweep by like the wind and go on. They are indeed guilty, whose strength is their god.”

¹²Aren’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 him to punish. ¹³You who have purer eyes than to see evil, and who cannot look on perversity, why do you tolerate those who deal treacherously and keep silent when the wicked swallows up the man who is more righteous than he, ¹⁴and make men like the fish of the sea, like the creeping things that have no ruler over them? ¹⁵He takes up all of them with the hook. He catches them in his net and gathers them in his dragnet. Therefore he rejoices and is glad. ¹⁶Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, because by them his life is luxurious and his food is good. ¹⁷Will he therefore continually empty his net, and kill the nations without mercy?

Notes

[†]1:2 “Yahweh” is God’s proper Name, sometimes rendered “LORD” (all caps) in other translations.

[‡]1:6 “Behold”, from “הִנֵּה” , means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

[§] 1:12 The Hebrew word rendered “God” is “אֱלֹהִים” (Elohim).

Notes

†2:5 Sheol is the place of the dead.

¹I will stand at my watch and set myself on the ramparts, 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. ³For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it hurries toward the end, and won't prove false. Though it takes time, wait for it, because it will surely come. It won't delay. ⁴Behold, his soul is puffed up. It is not upright in him, but the righteous will live by his faith. ⁵Yes, moreover, wine is treacherous: an arrogant man who doesn't stay at home, who enlarges his desire as Sheol;† he is like death and can't be satisfied, but gathers to himself all nations and heaps to himself all peoples.

⁶Won't all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, 'Woe to him who increases that which is not his, and who enriches himself by extortion! How long?' ⁷Won't your debtors rise up suddenly, and wake up those who make you tremble, and you will be their victim? ⁸Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples will plunder you because of men's blood, and for the violence done to the land, to the city and to all who dwell in it.

⁹Woe to him who gets an evil gain for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the hand of evil! ¹⁰You have devised shame to your house by cutting off many peoples, and have sinned against your soul. ¹¹For the stone will cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the woodwork will answer it.

¹²Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by iniquity! ¹³Behold, isn't it from Yahweh of Armies that the peoples labor for the fire, and the nations weary themselves for vanity? ¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh's glory, as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁵"Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, pouring your inflaming wine until they are drunk, so that you may gaze at their naked bodies! ¹⁶You are filled with shame, and not glory. You will also drink and be exposed! The cup of Yahweh's right hand will come around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory. ¹⁷For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, and the destruction of the animals

Notes

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 out 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 voice.

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 even though the fig tree doesn't flourish,
nor fruit be in the vines,

the labor of the olive fails,

the fields yield no food,

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.

†3:19 The word translated "Lord" is
"Adonai."

