

**{35} Habakkuk**

King James 1769 Version

King James Paraphrase {updated 2/15/15\*}

**Chapter 1**

(1) The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.  
 (2) O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save!  
 (3) Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention.  
 (4) Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.  
 (5) Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for *I* will work a work in your days, *which* ye will not believe, though it be told *you*.  
 (6) For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces *that are* not theirs.  
 (7) They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves.  
 (8) Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat.

**Chapter 1**

(1) The vision which Habakkuk {strong embrace}<sup>a</sup> the prophet saw.  
 (2) O LORD {Jehovah}, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear! *even* cry out to You *about* violence, and You will not save!  
 (3) Why do You show me sin, and cause *me* to see perversity? because destruction and violence *are* before me: and there are those who raise up strife and contention.  
 (4) Therefore the law is not enforced, and justice never goes forth: because the wicked encircle around the righteous; therefore injustice continues.  
 (5) Look you who live among the ungodly nations, and pay attention, and wonder marvelously: because *I* will work a work in your days, *which* you will not believe, though it is told *you*.  
 (6) Because, look, I raise up the Chaldeans<sup>b</sup>, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the homes *that are* not theirs.  
 (7) They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed from themselves.  
 (8) Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from afar; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hastens to eat.

1:1a - Habakkuk {חִבְקִיָּק} - strong embrace

We believe that Habakkuk prophesied at a time just prior to the Babylonian invasion of Judah. The Babylonians conquered Jerusalem in 3520 A.H./C-522 B.C. - 114 years after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians and 377 years after the death of King Solomon. [II Ki. 24:1; II Chron. 36:5-11; Dan. 2:1 ] {Jerusalem and the Temple will be totally destroyed 19 years later in 3539 A.H. due to the rebellion of King Zedekiah against Nebuchadnezzar.} II Ki. 25:1-4,8; Jer. 39:1-2; 52:2-7 – See: [Appendix G: World Time Line of Biblical History](#)

1:6b - Chaldeans - i.e. Babylonians

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(9) They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up as the east wind, and they shall gather the captivity as the sand.

(10) And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

(11) Then shall *his* mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, *imputing* this his power unto his god.

(12) *Art* thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

(13) *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

(14) And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, *that have* no ruler over them?

(15) They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

(16) Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion *is* fat, and their meat plenteous.

(17) Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?

(9) They shall all come for violence: their faces shall devour as the east wind, and they shall gather the captives as the sand.

(10) And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn to them: they shall deride every stronghold; because they shall heap up dirt, and take it.

(11) Then shall *his* mind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, *imputing* this his power to his god.

(12) *Are* You not from everlasting, O LORD {Jehovah} my God, my Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD {Jehovah}, You have ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, You have established them for correction.

(13) *You are* of purer eyes than to look upon evil, and can not look on sin: why do You look upon those who deal treacherously, *and* hold Your tongue when the wicked *man* devours *one who is* more righteous than he?

(14) And make men as the fish of the sea, as the crawling things, *that have* no ruler over them?

(15) All of them take up with the hook, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their fishing net: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

(16) Therefore they sacrifice to their net, and burn incense to their fishing net; because by them their portion *is* fat, and their meat plenteous.

(17) Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to kill the nations?

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**Chapter 2**

(1) I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

(2) And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

(3) For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

(4) Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

(5) Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, *he is* a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

(6) Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth *that which* is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

(7) Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for booties unto them?

(8) Because thou hast spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and *for* the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

**Chapter 2**

(1) I will stand upon my watch, and set myself upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say to me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd.

(2) And the LORD {Jehovah} answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make *it* plain upon tablets, that he who reads it may run.

(3) Because the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not delay.

(4) Look, he whose soul is puffed up is not upright in himself: but the just shall live by his faith.

(5) Yes also, because he sins by wine, *he is* a proud man, neither stays at home, who enlarges his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathers to himself all nations, and heaps up to himself all people:

(6) Shall not 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! how long? and to him who loads himself up with pledges he does not plan to keep<sup>a</sup>!

(7) Shall they not rise up suddenly who shall bite you, and awake who shall torment you, and you shall be for their booty?

(8) Because you have spoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil you; because of men's blood, and *for* the violence of the land, of the city, and of all who live in it.

2:6a - ladens himself with thick clay - clay was used for pledges - a lump of clay was used and each individual pressed his signet ring into the clay to seal his pledge. The issue here is that he is making many pledges that he has no intention of keeping.

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(9) Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!  
(10) Thou hast consulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned *against* thy soul.  
(11) For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it. (12) Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!  
(13) Behold, *is it* not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very vanity?  
(14) For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.  
(15) Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!  
(16) Thou art filled with shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD'S right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing *shall be* on thy glory.  
(17) For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, *which* made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

(9) Woe to him who desires an evil desire for what belongs to someone else<sup>a</sup> for his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!  
(10) You have consulted shame to your house by cutting off many people, and have sinned *against* your own soul.  
(11) Because the stone shall cry out of the wall, and the beam out of the timber shall answer it.  
(12) Woe to him who builds a town with blood, and establishes a city by sin!  
(13) Look, *is it* not of the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts that the people shall labor in the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for only vanity?  
(14) Because the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD {Jehovah}, as the waters cover the sea.  
(15) Woe to him who gives his neighbor drink, that puts your bottle to *him*, and also causes *him to be* drunken, that you may look on their nakedness!  
(16) You are filled with shame for glory: you also drink, and expose yourself: the cup of the LORD {Jehovah}'s right hand shall be turned against you, and shameful vomiting *shall be* on your glory.  
(17) Because the violence of Lebanon shall cover you, and the spoil of beasts, *which* made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all who live in it.

2:9a - covets an evil covetousness - i.e. has an evil desire to take that which is not rightfully his for himself