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Habakkuk

Habakkuk 1

Habakkuk 1:1

ULT

¹ The message that Habakkuk the prophet received,

UST

¹ This is the conversation between Habakkuk the prophet and Yahweh.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:2

ULT

² "Yahweh, how long will I cry for help, and you will not hear? I cry out to you, 'Violence!' but you will not save.

UST

² I said, "Yahweh, how long must I continue to call to you for help before you respond? I cry out, "The people are acting so violently!" but you do not rescue me!

What question does Habakkuk ask Yahweh as he begins his pronouncement?

Habakkuk asks why Yahweh has not heard or saved him, even though he has cried for help.

Habakkuk 1:3

ULT

³ Why do you make me see iniquity and look upon wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention rises up.

UST

³ Why do you make me watch people do what is wrong, but you do nothing? I see people destroying things and acting violently; they fight and quarrel everywhere.

What is Habakkuk being made to see?

Habakkuk is being made to see iniquity, wrongdoing, destruction, violence, strife, and contention.

Habakkuk 1:4**ULT**

⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice does not last for any time. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore false justice goes out.”

UST

⁴ No one obeys the law of Moses, and no one acts in a right way for very long. Wicked people always defeat the righteous people in the courts, because judges never make fair decisions.”

What kind of justice is going forth?

False justice is going forth.

Habakkuk 1:5**ULT**

⁵ “Look at the nations and observe them; be amazed and astonished! For I am surely about to do something in your days that you will not believe even if it is told to you.

UST

⁵ Yahweh replied to me, “This is happening, but look around at what is happening in the other nations. If you look, you will be amazed, and even astonished, since I am doing something during this time that you would never have believed would happen, even if someone told you about it.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:6**ULT**

⁶ For look! I am about to raise up the Chaldeans—that fierce and impetuous nation— they are marching throughout the breadth of the earth to seize dwelling places that were not their own.

UST

⁶ Very soon I will bring the soldiers of Babylonia, who are fierce and swift. They will march across the entire earth and conquer many other countries.

What does Yahweh tell Habakkuk that he will see in his days?

Yahweh says that Habakkuk will see the Chaldeans march through the land to seize dwellings.

Habakkuk 1:7**ULT**

⁷ They are terrifying and fearsome; their judgment and splendor proceed from themselves.

UST

⁷ They are a people whom others fear very much, and they do whatever they want to, because they believe that they are very great and that they have the right to judge everyone else.

What kind of people are the Chaldeans?

The Chaldeans are terrifying and fearsome.

Habakkuk 1:8**ULT**

⁸ Their horses also are swifter than leopards, quicker than the evening wolves. So their horsemen come galloping, and their horsemen come from a great distance—they fly like an eagle swift to devour.

UST

⁸ The horses that pull their chariots go faster than leopards, and they are fiercer than wolves are in the evening. The horses on which the soldiers ride gallop swiftly; the soldiers riding them come from distant places. They are like eagles that swoop down to snatch their prey.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:9**ULT**

⁹ They all come for violence; all their faces moving forward, and they gather captives like sand. ^[1]

UST

⁹ As they ride along, they are determined to act violently. They advance eagerly, as fast as the wind over the desert, and gather up as many prisoners as there are grains of sand!

What do the Chaldeans gather with violence?

The Chaldeans gather captives like sand with violence.

Habakkuk 1:10**ULT**

¹⁰ So they mock kings, and rulers are only a mockery for them. They laugh at every stronghold, for they pile up earth and capture them.

UST

¹⁰ They make fun of kings and princes of other countries, and they ridicule all the cities that have high walls around them. They pile up earth around those cities to capture them.

What is the Chaldeans' attitude toward other kings and rulers?

The Chaldeans mock other kings and rulers.

Habakkuk 1:11**ULT**

¹¹ Then they sweep past like the wind and pass on—guilty men, those whose might is their god."

UST

¹¹ They rush past like the wind, and then they go to attack other cities. But they are very guilty, because they think that their own power is their god!"

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:12**ULT**

¹² "Are you not from ancient times, O Yahweh my God, my Holy One? We will not die. O Yahweh, you have ordained them for judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for correction.

UST

¹² Then I said, "Yahweh, are you not the eternal God? You are my Holy One, so we will not die. So why have you sent those men from Babylonia to judge us and kill us? You are like our Rock, on top of which we can hide, so why have you sent them to punish us?"

Who has ordained that the Chaldeans come and bring judgment?

Yahweh has ordained that the Chaldeans come and bring judgment.

What titles does Habakkuk use for Yahweh?

Habakkuk uses the titles "my God," "Holy One," and "Rock" for Yahweh.

Habakkuk 1:13**ULT**

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to gaze upon evil, and you are not able to look on wrongdoing with favor; why then have you looked favorably on those who betray? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they are?

UST

¹³ You are pure, and you cannot endure looking at what is evil, so why are you ignoring men who are treacherous? Why do you do nothing to punish those wicked men from Babylonia, who destroy people who are more righteous than they are?

What question or complaint does Habakkuk make to Yahweh?

Habakkuk asks Yahweh why he is silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous.

Habakkuk 1:14**ULT**

¹⁴ You make men like fish in the sea, like creeping things without a ruler over them.

UST

¹⁴ They treat us like fish in the sea, or like other creatures in the sea, that have no ruler.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:15**ULT**

¹⁵ He brings all of them up with a fishhook; he drags men away in his fishnet; he gathers them together in his dragnet; so he rejoices and he is glad.

UST

¹⁵ The soldiers of Babylonia think that we are fish for them to pull out of the sea with hooks or to catch in their nets, while they rejoice and celebrate.

About what are those who are slaughtering the nations rejoicing?

They are rejoicing as they gather and drag men away.

What occupation does Habakkuk say is like the gathering of men for judgment?

Habakkuk says the gathering of men for judgment is like gathering in fishnets.

Habakkuk 1:16**ULT**

16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net his portion is fat, and his food is the richest kind.

UST

16 If they catch us, they will worship their weapons with which they captured us and offer sacrifices to them and burn incense in front of them! They will say, 'These weapons have enabled us to become rich and eat expensive food.'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 1:17**ULT**

17 Will he therefore keep emptying his net, and will he continually slaughter the nations without mercy?"
1:9 ^[1] is very difficult; many modern versions have other interpretations.

UST

17 Will you allow them to continue to conquer people forever? Will you allow them to destroy people of other nations without any mercy for anyone?"

What emotion do those who are slaughtering the nations lack?

Those slaughtering the nations lack compassion.

Habakkuk 2

Habakkuk 2:1

ULT

¹ I will stand at my guard post and station myself on the watchtower, and I will watch carefully to see what he will say to me and how I should turn from my complaint. ^[1]

UST

¹ After I said that, I said to myself, "I will climb up into my guard post, and stand there in my watchtower. I will wait there to find out what Yahweh will say, what he will reply and how I should answer."

For what was Habakkuk watching carefully?

Habakkuk was watching carefully to see what Yahweh would say to him.

Habakkuk 2:2

ULT

² Yahweh answered me and said, "Record this vision, and write plainly on the tablets so that the one reading them might run.

UST

² Then Yahweh replied to me, "Write plainly on tablets what I am revealing to you in this vision, and then read it to a messenger so he can run with it to tell it to other people.

What did Yahweh tell Habakkuk to do with the vision?

Yahweh told Habakkuk to record the vision upon tablets.

Habakkuk 2:3

ULT

³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end and will not fail. Though it delays, wait for it. For it will surely come and will not tarry.

UST

³ In this vision I will talk about things that will happen in the future. Now is not the time when those things will happen, but they certainly will happen, and when they occur, they will occur quickly, and they will not be delayed. You want those things to happen immediately, but they are not happening. But wait patiently for them to happen!

What assurance did Yahweh give Habakkuk about this vision concerning the future?

Yahweh assured Habakkuk that this vision would speak even though it delays.

Habakkuk 2:4**ULT**

⁴ Look! He whose desires are not right within him is puffed up. But the righteous will live by his faith.

UST

⁴ Think about the proud people! They are certainly not doing what is righteous. But people who are righteous will live because they faithfully do what I want them to do.

How did Yahweh say the righteous will live?

Yahweh said the righteous will live by his faith.

Habakkuk 2:5**ULT**

⁵ For wine betrays the arrogant man so that he will not abide, but enlarges his appetite like Sheol and, like death, is never satisfied. He gathers to himself every nation and collects for himself all of the peoples.

UST

⁵ If people live for excess such as wine, they will deceive themselves, and proud people are never able to rest. Greedy people open their mouths as wide as the place where dead people are, and they never have enough, just like the place of the dead never has enough dead people. The armies of Babylonia conquer many nations for themselves, and capture all their people.

What three things does Yahweh say are never satisfied?

Yahweh says the arrogant young man's desire, the grave, and death are never satisfied.

Habakkuk 2:6**ULT**

⁶ Will not all these create a saying to ridicule him and a taunting song and riddles about him, saying, 'Woe to the one increasing what is not his own! For how long will you increase for yourself the weight of the pledges you have taken?'

UST

⁶ But soon all those whom they have captured will ridicule the soldiers from Babylonia! They will make fun of them, saying, 'Terrible things will happen to you who have stolen things from other countries! You got many things by forcing people to give them to you. But you certainly will not keep those things for long!'

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:7**ULT**

⁷ Will not your debtors rise up suddenly, and those awake who will make you tremble? You will be spoil for them.

UST

⁷ Suddenly those whom you forced to be unjustly indebted to you will rise up and cause you to tremble, and they will take away all the things that you have stolen from them.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:8**ULT**

⁸ Because you have plundered many peoples, all the remnant of the peoples will plunder you. For you have shed human blood and acted with violence against the land, the cities, and all who live in them.

UST

⁸ You stole things from the people of many nations. You murdered people of many people groups, and you destroyed their land and their cities. So those who are still alive will steal valuable things from you.

What does Yahweh say will happen to the arrogant young man who plundered many nations?

Yahweh says the arrogant young man will be plundered by the remnant of the peoples.

Habakkuk 2:9**ULT**

⁹ 'Woe to the one who carves out evil gains for his house, so he can set his nest on high to keep himself safe from the hand of evil.'

UST

⁹ Terrible things will happen to you people of Babylonia who build big houses with money that you got by forcing others to give it to you. You are proud, and you think that your houses will be safe because you have built them in places where you can easily defend them.

Against whom does Yahweh declare a woe first?

Yahweh declares a woe against the one who carves out evil gains for his house.

Habakkuk 2:10**ULT**

¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many people, and have sinned against yourself.

UST

¹⁰ But because you have destroyed others, you have caused your family and yourselves shame!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:11**ULT**

¹¹ For the stones will cry out from the wall, and the rafters of timber will answer them,

UST

¹¹ The stones in the walls of your houses cry out to accuse you, and the beams in your ceilings also say the same things!

What does Yahweh say will cry out because of the shame and sin?

Yahweh says the stones will cry out because of the shame and sin.

Habakkuk 2:12**ULT**

¹² 'Woe to the one who builds a city with blood, and who establishes a town in iniquity.'

UST

¹² Terrible things will happen to you people of Babylonia who kill people in order to build cities, cities that you build by using money that you have gotten by committing crimes.

Against whom does Yahweh declare a woe second?

Yahweh declares a woe against the one who builds a city with blood and iniquity.

Habakkuk 2:13**ULT**

¹³ Is it not indeed from Yahweh of hosts that peoples labor for fire and all the other nations weary themselves for nothing?

UST

¹³ But Yahweh, commander of the angel armies, has declared that everything that is built by people who do things like that will be destroyed by fire; they will have worked hard uselessly.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:14**ULT**

¹⁴ Yet the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea.

UST

¹⁴ But in contrast, like the oceans are filled with water, the earth will be filled with people who know that Yahweh is very great!

What does Yahweh promise will happen with the land in the future?

Yahweh promises that the land will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh.

Habakkuk 2:15**ULT**

¹⁵ 'Woe to the one who forces his neighbors to drink— you pour out your wrath ^[2] and you make them drunk in order to look at their nakedness.'

UST

¹⁵ Terrible things will happen to you people of Babylonia, who cause people who live in nearby countries to become drunk. You force them to drink a lot of drugged wine until they are drunk and then they walk around naked because you are happy when you see that.

Against whom does Yahweh declare a woe third?

Yahweh declares a woe against the one making his neighbor drink poison to look on their nakedness.

Habakkuk 2:16**ULT**

¹⁶ You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Now it is your turn! Drink, and you will expose your uncircumcised foreskin! The cup in the right hand of Yahweh is coming around to you, and disgrace will cover your glory.

UST

¹⁶ But you are the ones who soon will be disgraced instead of being honored. It will be as though you are forced to drink a lot of wine until you will also stagger around, drunk. You will drink the wine that symbolizes that Yahweh will punish you, and he will cause others to dishonor you instead of honoring you.

What will come in its turn to the one making his neighbor drink poison?

The cup of Yahweh's right hand will come in its turn to the one making his neighbor drink poison.

Habakkuk 2:17**ULT**

¹⁷ For the violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you and the destruction of animals will terrify you. For you have shed the blood of man and you have acted with violence against the land, the cities, and all who live in them.

UST

¹⁷ You did violent things to the people in Lebanon, and you killed the wild animals there, but you will be punished severely for doing that. You have killed many people and you have destroyed their lands and their cities.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:18**ULT**

¹⁸ What does an idol profit you when its maker has shaped it or a metal image, a teacher of lies? For its maker trusts his own handiwork when he makes these mute gods.

UST

¹⁸ You people of Babylonia need to know that your idols are completely useless, because it is people who made them. Statues that have been carved or made in a mold deceive you. Those who trust in idols are trusting in things that they themselves created, things that cannot speak!

In what is the maker of a carved figure placing his trust?

He is placing his trust in his own handiwork when he makes these mute gods.

Habakkuk 2:19**ULT**

¹⁹ 'Woe to him who says to the wood, 'Wake up!' Or to the silent stone, 'Arise!' Can these things teach? See, it is overlaid with gold and silver, but there is no breath at all within it.

UST

¹⁹ Terrible things will happen to you who say to lifeless idols that are made of wood, 'Wake up!' Stone idols certainly cannot tell you what you should do; they look nice because they are covered with silver and gold, but they are not alive.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 2:20**ULT**

²⁰ But Yahweh is in his holy temple! Let all the earth be silent before him."
2:1 ^[1], which is what the Hebrew text has, some modern versions have or .
2:15 ^[2], or as .

UST

²⁰ But Yahweh is in his holy temple; everyone on the earth should be silent in his presence!"

What must be done before Yahweh, who is in his holy temple?

All must be silent before Yahweh in his holy temple.

Habakkuk 3

Habakkuk 3:1

ULT

¹ The prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, according to Shigionoth. ^[1]

UST

¹ A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:2

ULT

² Yahweh, I have heard your report, and I fear. O Yahweh, revive your work in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years make it known; remember to have compassion in your wrath.

UST

² Yahweh, I have heard about you; and I revere you because of all the amazing things that you have done. In our time, do again some of those things that you did long ago! Even when you are angry with us, act mercifully toward us!

Having heard Yahweh's report, what is Habakkuk's emotional response?

Having heard Yahweh's report, Habakkuk is afraid.

What does Habakkuk ask Yahweh to remember?

Habakkuk asks Yahweh to remember compassion in his wrath.

Habakkuk 3:3

ULT

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

UST

³ In a vision, I saw God, the Holy One, coming from the region of Teman in Edom; I also saw him coming from the Paran hills in the region of Sinai. His glory filled the sky, and the earth was full of people who were praising him.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:4**ULT**

⁴ His brightness was like the light; rays flashed from his hand; and there he hid his power.

UST

⁴ His glory was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hands where he keeps his power.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:5**ULT**

⁵ Deadly disease went before him, and the plague followed at his heels.

UST

⁵ He sent plagues in front of him, and other plagues came behind him.

When God came, what went before and after him?

When God came, pestilence went before him and plague after him.

Habakkuk 3:6**ULT**

⁶ He stood and measured the earth; he looked and made the nations tremble. Even the eternal mountains were shattered, and the everlasting hills bowed down. His ways are everlasting.

UST

⁶ When he stopped, the earth shook. When he looked at the nations, all the people trembled. The hills and mountains that have existed since the beginning of time collapsed and crumbled. He is the only one who exists eternally!

What did Yahweh do to the nations in his wrath?

Yahweh shook the nations.

Habakkuk 3:7**ULT**

⁷ I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction, and the tent curtains in the land of Midian trembling.

UST

⁷ In the vision I saw the people who live in tents in the region of Cushan were very afraid, and the people in the region of Midian were trembling.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:8**ULT**

⁸ Was your wrath against the rivers, O Yahweh? Was your anger against the rivers, or your fury against the sea, when you rode upon your horses and your victorious chariots?

UST

⁸ Yahweh, was it because you were angry with the rivers and streams that you struck them? Did the seas cause you to be furious, with the result that you rode through them with horses that were pulling chariots that you used to bring victory to your cause?

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:9**ULT**

⁹ You removed the sheath from your bow; you called for many arrows! *Selah*. You split the earth with rivers.

UST

⁹ It was as though you uncovered your bow and prepared to shoot it, and had grasped arrows to put to your bow. Then you split open the earth, and streams burst out.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:10**ULT**

¹⁰ The mountains saw you and twisted in pain. Downpours of water passed over them; the deep sea raised its voice. It lifted up its waves on high.

UST

¹⁰ It is as though the mountains saw you doing that, and they trembled in pain. The water rushed by in floods; it was as though the deep ocean roared and caused its waves to rise up high.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:11**ULT**

¹¹ The sun and moon stood still in their high places at the light of your arrows as they fly, at the gleam of your flashing spear.

UST

¹¹ The sun and moon stopped moving in the sky, while your lightning flashed past like a swift arrow, and your glittering spear flashed.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:12**ULT**

¹² You have marched over the earth with indignation. In anger you have threshed the nations.

UST

¹² Being very angry, you walked across the earth and trampled the armies of many nations!

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:13**ULT**

¹³ You went out for the salvation of your people, for the salvation of your anointed one. You crush the head of the house of the wicked to lay him bare from the thigh up to the neck. *Selah*

UST

¹³ But you also went to rescue your people, and to save the one whom you have chosen. You struck down the leader of those wicked people and took away all his power completely.

Why did Yahweh go forth in his indignation?

Yahweh went forth in his indignation for the salvation of his people and his anointed one.

Who does Yahweh shatter in his indignation?

Yahweh shatters the head of the house of the wicked.

Habakkuk 3:14**ULT**

¹⁴ You have pierced the head of his warriors with his own arrows since they came like a storm to scatter us, their gloating was like one who devours the afflicted in a hiding place.

UST

¹⁴ With his own spear you destroyed the leader of those soldiers who rushed like a whirlwind to attack and scatter us, thinking that they could conquer us as easily as they defeat the weak people who hide from them.

What did the wicked warriors do when they came to scatter Yahweh's people?

The warriors gloated over Yahweh's people.

Habakkuk 3:15**ULT**

¹⁵ You have trampled on the sea with your horses, on the surge of the great waters.

UST

¹⁵ You walked through the sea with your horses to destroy our enemies, and caused the waves to surge.

(There are no questions for this verse.)

Habakkuk 3:16**ULT**

¹⁶ I heard, and my inner parts trembled! My lips quivered at the sound. Decay enters into my bones, and my legs tremble beneath me Yet I will wait quietly for the day of distress to come upon the people who invade us.

UST

¹⁶ When I saw that vision, my heart pounded and my lips quivered because I became afraid. My legs became weak and I shook, because I was terrified. But I will wait quietly for the people of Babylonia, those who invaded our country, to experience disasters!

For what is Habakkuk waiting quietly?

Habakkuk is waiting quietly for the day of distress to come upon the people who invaded Yahweh's people.

Habakkuk 3:17**ULT**

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there is no fruit on the vines; and though the produce of the olive tree fails and the fields yield no food; and though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls,

UST

¹⁷ Therefore, even if there are no blossoms on the fig trees, and there are no grapes on the grapevines, and even if there are no olives growing on the olive trees, and there are no crops in the fields, and even if the flocks of sheep and goats die in the fields, and there are no cattle in the stalls, this is what I will do.

What hardships are the people of Yahweh suffering?

The fig and olive trees are not producing, the fields yield no food, and there is no livestock.

Habakkuk 3:18**ULT**

¹⁸ yet, I will rejoice in Yahweh. I will be joyful because of the God of my salvation.

UST

¹⁸ I will rejoice because of Yahweh! I will be joyful because my God is the one who saves me!

Despite the hardship, what will Habakkuk do?

Despite the hardship, Habakkuk will exult in Yahweh.

Habakkuk 3:19**ULT**

19 The Lord Yahweh is my strength and he makes my feet like the feet of a deer. He makes me tread on my high places. For the music director, on my stringed instruments.

3:1 ^[1], which may refer to musical directions for singers.

UST

19 Yahweh the Lord is the one who gives me strength, and he enables me to climb safely like a deer does, he makes me walk on my high hills. (This message is for the choir director: When this prayer is sung, it is to be accompanied by people playing stringed instruments.)

To where does Yahweh lead Habakkuk?

Yahweh leads Habakkuk to high places.

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